

Run-down, sprawling and decayed. Are our cities the worst in Europe?

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

BRITAIN'S CITIES are among the worst in Europe and face the threat of falling into run-away decay. That vision was outlined yesterday by Lord Rogers of Riverside, now the nation's most influential architect, in a report to the Government.

The key to preventing such a fate lies in the hands of the middle classes, who are leaving cities to seek a better life. If this continues and owner-occupied suburbs continue to sprawl out into the countryside, there is a danger of entire neighbourhoods becoming deserted. The solution, says Lord Rogers, would be compact, attractive urban quarters where people can walk to the shops, work and play. But this will work only if the middle classes can be persuaded once again to live near the centre instead of in "soulless, alienated" suburbs.

Sharing the Vision, produced by the Urban Task Force, which is made up of figures from the development industry, big city councils and academia, says the threat of further decline comes partly from concentrations of poverty in the big cities, bringing crime, disorder and family breakdown.

Lord Rogers, the taskforce chairman, said: "We have seen a worsening of the quality of life in our cities. They have fallen from near the top of the European league to near the bottom. Bad cities brutalise people and they wish to escape from them."

Council and housing association homes for low-income tenants must mix with owner-occupied housing. "We want a situation where you can't see the difference between social and market housing," said Lord Rogers, designer of the Millennium Dome.

Britain's planners, architects and developers are also at fault for the dismal state of Britain's cities. "There is quite clearly a lack of skills," he said. "I'm particularly conscious of this when I go abroad - there has been a general run-down of our skills. We must move away from the idea that building is a matter of making a fast buck."

Averting the creation of urban ghettos comes at a high price. "An urban renaissance is not going to come easily or cheaply," says the report. Sweeping changes in taxation, legislation and Britain's anti-urban culture will be needed. "The Government, in partnership with the private sector, is going to have to do much more."

Part of the answer is "to drastically limit suburban sprawl and out-of-town development", says the interim report. It welcomes moves already made in this direction, but says: "Much more needs to be done to make it harder and more expensive to develop out of town." Public transport should be favoured above the car "to minimise pollution and congestion".

Lord Rogers and the taskforce's secretary, Jon Rouse,



Lord Rogers, who gave a dire warning that Britain's cities faced the threat of terminal decay

John Voos

will say little about their final recommendations. There is intense debate within the group about what these should be.

But they will certainly include new ways of raising finance for urban regeneration, such as tax-breaks for developers, and changes in compulsory purchase powers for councils to make it easier for them to buy blighted land for redevelopment. The taskforce is also expected to recommend new incentives for owning and restoring homes in urban areas, although it denied reports that it favoured removing the tax relief on mortgages for homes built on greenfield sites.

The report says the bad reputation of inner-city state schools are identified as one of the key factors driving home owners out of inner cities. But it also concludes there is a deep seated anti-urban culture. "The English are an urban people who prefer to live in a mock-up of the coun-

tryside." Up to 5 million extra homes are needed over the next 25 years, mainly because people are living longer and spending more years living alone. The task force believes most, but not all, of these will have to be built within existing towns and cities, in ways that enhance rather than overcrowd them. Lord Rogers said about a third would probably have to be built on greenfield sites. The report warns that a mass of new housing was "urbanism on a mega-scale which, if not well planned, could destroy both existing towns and the countryside".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the kind of cities the taskforce envisaged would have a much-improved environment and far fewer problems of poverty.

But he was attacked by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), represented on the taskforce, for continuing to allow massive

new greenfield housing developments. Tony Burton, of the council, said: "The taskforce is being undermined by continuing allocation of greenfield sites for thousands of new houses, and the Government's failure to support reduced house-building plans in pressured areas of rural England."

Tonight Lord Rogers flies to the Netherlands with Mr Prescott. He will be showing the Deputy Prime Minister some examples of Dutch urban regeneration, which he believes are far in advance of British practice.

Yesterday Mr Prescott warmly welcomed the report, the final version of which will be produced later this year alongside a long list of recommendations.

What remains to be seen is whether the Treasury and 10 Downing Street will rise to the challenge of making suburban "Sierra Man" learn to love European-style urban living.

URBAN LIFE IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE



LYON

Population: 416,000 (city), 1,963,941 (conurbation)

Public transport: Three high-speed train stations, international airport, metro system, buses.

New developments: Expanding conference centre, new Hilton hotel and casino, plan to divert major motorway around city, planned museum of technology.

Deprivation: High unemployment and poverty in high-rise suburbs around city.

THE LATEST proof that the 1,963,941 people in France's second city cannot be wrong came in October, when the Mayor of Lyon, Raymond Barre, asked to borrow 100m francs (£10m) for improvements. In two weeks all "Lyon 2000" bonds had been bought.

Yet, according to a survey by the council, most Lyonais believe they pay too much tax to an ill-organised adminis-

tration. And, in common with the most Continental metropolises, the concept of inner-city deprivation is unknown on the bourgeois streets of Lyon, which has a metro and buses, three high-speed train stations and plans for trams.

The trouble is in the suburbs: greater Lyon has some of the most violent high-rise slums in France, where unemployment reaches 25 per cent among second-genera-

tion North African youths. The average joblessness figure for Lyon is 12 per cent.

Twinned with Birmingham since 1951, Lyon is only now losing the 's' which for years inexplicably plagued its ending in English orthography.

This summer, as part of an ever-improving partnership between the cities, "Lyon Week" will be held in Birmingham.

ALEX DUVAL SMITH



BIRMINGHAM

Population: Birmingham City - 989,000. West Midlands conurbation - 2.7 million.

Public transport: InterCity train service. International airport. Suburban railway network. In spring a £145m section of its overground metro opens. Buses.

New developments: International Convention Centre, Symphony Hall.

Deprivation: England's fifth most deprived council area, after Liverpool, Newham (in London), Manchester and Hackney.

BIRMINGHAM'S CITY centre has been transformed by ambitious and highly praised new developments during the Nineties.

But its council admits that Britain's second city still has a long way to go. The core is largely surrounded by run down inner city wards where poverty is concentrated.

According to a recent Government report, it ranks as the

fifth most deprived council area in England.

The upwardly mobile still tend to move out of Birmingham if they can and yet, compared to other big British cities, such as Liverpool and Glasgow, Birmingham's population has declined much less rapidly. And its problems of deprivation are not as severe.

There is a boom in city centre living, with thousands of

new apartments being built. The council is teaming up with developers to erase the worst of the grim Sixties developments. And it is breaking through the "concrete collar" of the inner ring road which cut Birmingham's centre off from the rest of the city. The hope is that this regeneration can spread into the run down neighbourhoods beyond.

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Even our poorest areas have sense of civic pride

SINCE WRITING *Cities for a Small Planet* Lord Rogers has taken to wearing bicycle clips during lectures. It gets everyone's attention when he points out that when cars overrun the city we will not be able to breathe properly, let alone travel anywhere. His favourite slide at these lectures shows small boys playing football on a grassed-over street between rows of terraced houses.

So Lord Rogers comes from a very special position when, as chairman of the Government's Urban Task Force, he claims that "the overall quality of life in English cities has been diminishing for a long time and compares very poorly with other European cities".

John Gummer, former environment secretary, would not agree. "It's a very difficult case to uphold," he says. "First of all English homes have significantly greater space than Continental homes - a third again. The anecdotal evidence is simple. When we went to look at British council-owned property in the last government we as-



NONIE NIESEWAND

sumed one spare bedroom was proper for each household. Not one other country in Europe would accept that. Or as much garden space."

Even poor boroughs have a sense of civic pride. Try telling the residents of Hackney in north-east London, with their contemporary art studios and galleries, that they are living in an ugly, sprawling area. Or the residents of nearby Tower Hamlets that they do not have a neighbourhood.

Newcastle is now so fashionable that advertising agencies try out new products on the locals. Tell the residents that

they would be better off living in Lyons. There isn't a Geordie who would swap.

This doomwatch comes at a time when Britain is seen as the hottest - or coolest, depending on your terminology - country in Europe.

The Netherlands shaped up much better than Britain when Lord Rogers took a fact-finding tour there. What impressed him was a mix of low-income families living in two-storey homes mixed with larger apartment blocks around a square which doubles as school playground. He was also impressed by the "high" level of rehabilitation of older terraced properties, as well as Amsterdam's car-free housing programme. And the key to it all, says Lord Rogers, is quality not quantity, which upholds that old egalitarian modernist maxim "less is more".

Yet the Urban Task Force has to advise the Government which needs more than 4 million new households by 2016. That is about twice the number of dwellings currently in Lon-

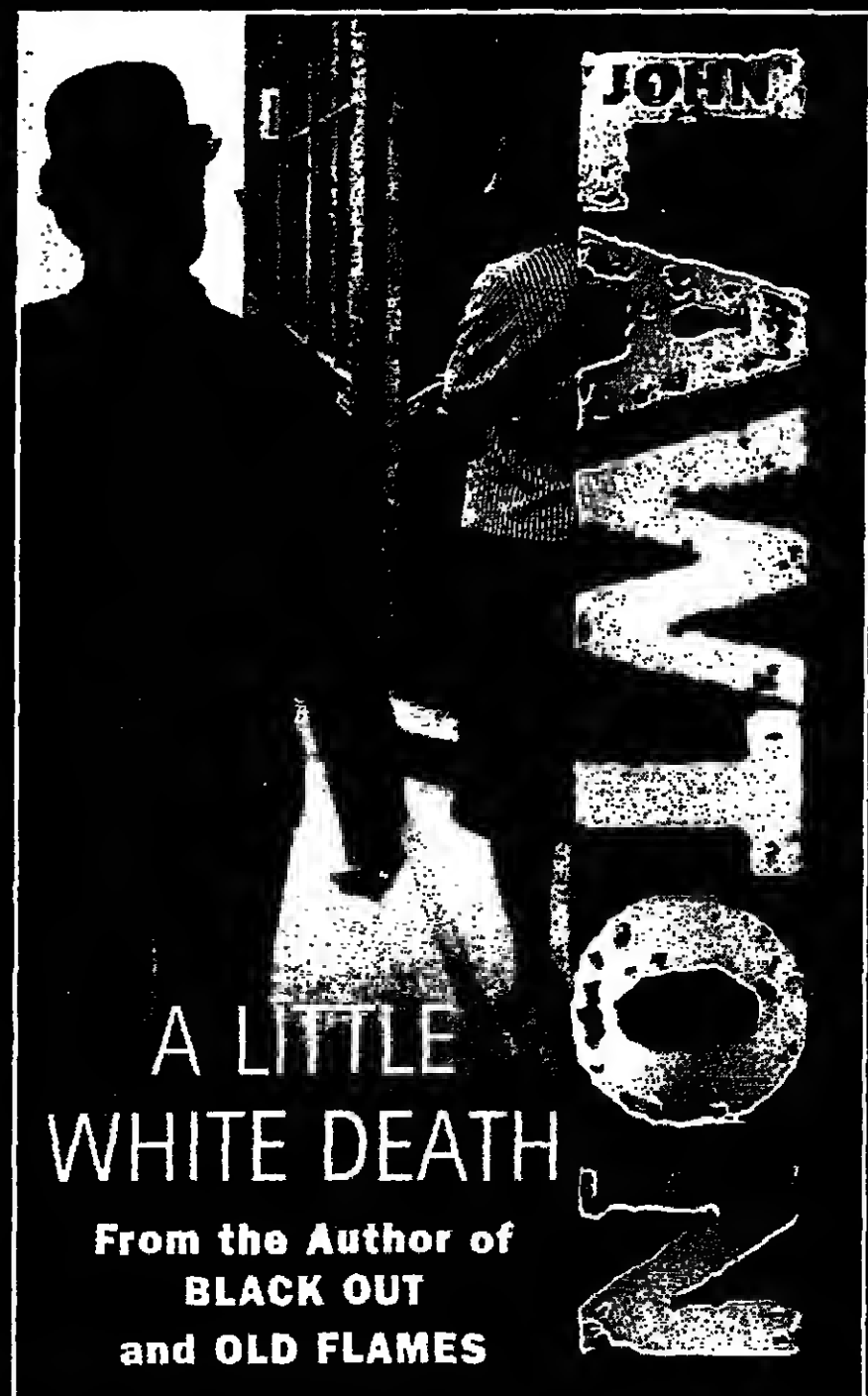
don, or more than 45 times those of Milton Keynes.

"This is urbanism on a mega scale which, if not well planned, could destroy both existing towns and the countryside," the Urban Task Force warns. So they are looking at regenerating city centres which, it is true, are bleaker than their European counterparts.

When technological change emptied textile mills and telephone exchanges, factories and warehouses in our post-industrial cities, we let them rot. In Paris they turned them into chic loft-living with a fashionable address. Entrepreneurial is French for far-sighted.

The new Tate Gallery at Bankside in London will be housed in the old power station 25 years after the French put their Impressionist collection inside an old train shed at the Quai d'Orsay. But then, as John Gummer says: "Success in France is measured by having an address in the best arrondissement in Paris. In Britain it's a vicarage in the country."

'Unputdownable narrative of spying, sexual intrigue, political scandal and murder... a haunting novel' A.N.WILSON, *DAILY TELEGRAPH*



4/HOME NEWS

Kidnap gang leader confesses

BY FRANK GARDNER
in Aden

THE LEADER of the militant Islamist kidnappers who seized 16 Western tourists in Yemen last month admitted in court yesterday kidnapping them and using them as human shields. He boasted that he "abducted the infidels because their governments attacked Muslims indiscriminately".

Britons Ruth Williamson, 34, Margaret Whitehouse, 52, Peter Rowe, 60 and Australian Andrew Thirsk, 35, were killed in a botched rescue attempt on 29 December.

Zein al-Abidine al-Mihdar - also known as Abu Hassan - the leader of the group, and the brothers Ahmed Mohammed Atif and Saad Mohammed Atif, were charged with kidnapping in a heavily guarded Yemeni court.

Far from denying the charge of kidnap, which carries the death penalty in Yemen, Mr Al-Mihdar shouted defiantly that his group had done everything in the name of God and that he had no regrets.

The Yemeni authorities were clearly nervous that some of the thousands of well-armed supporters that Mr Al-Mihdar claims to have would choose this moment to spring him from captivity.

The tiny Yemeni coastal town of Zinjibar had never seen such a display of security. In the bustling market place, where camels ambled past veiled women who sat around in the heat, uniformed police were spaced at 50-yard intervals.

Outside the court house, soldiers manned enormous Russian machine guns on the backs of pick-up trucks. When the closed white van drew up with the three defendants inside, there was chaos as police tried to prevent photographs being taken. The men emerged, blinking in the harsh sunlight, before being jostled into the court room in handcuffs.

After brief formalities, the men were read their charges,



Lawrence Whitehouse at Long Sutton Primary School for a service for his wife, Margaret, a former teacher at the school Tim Ockenden

which including executing a campaign of bombing, kidnapping and killing in Southern Yemen. No mention was made of the five Britons detained in Aden, whom the Yemeni government has been claiming are linked to the kidnappers. Yemen's ambassador has made clear that the five have not yet been charged, the Foreign Office said last night.

Mr Al-Mihdar then delivered a calm and terrifying dia-

logue in Arabic against the West, Christianity and rulers such as President Bill Clinton. He said he and his followers were trying to breach the blockade against Muslims by Britain, America, France and their allies. "Are we going to see the cross raised in this region," he asked the court rhetorically, "or the [Muslim] crescent? We are going to break the cross in this country and the same blood that was spilt in

Afghanistan will be spilt against the Crusaders."

Smiling frequently as if the trial was all a huge game, Mr Al-Mihdar gave his blow-by-blow version of the shoot-out in which four of his hostages died and two were injured. He denied killing any himself, but freely admitted using them as human shields against the advancing government troops. "God sent them to us, so we took them," he said. "We kid-

napped them to fight their countries because they don't believe in God or our Prophet."

Mr Al-Mihdar was visibly aware that he has little chance of escaping execution and has even refused a defence lawyer. In the half-hour recess, he chatted amicably to journalists and even his government captors. We asked him if he knew the five Britons detained in Aden on suspicion of terrorism. He replied: "No." He also denied

knowing the British radical Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza Al-Misri, who told said this week that the kidnappers had called him last month.

Before the court adjourned until after the Islamic Eid holiday next week, the leader of the kidnappers issued a chilling call to his followers. "For those who are still at large," he said, "I hope they will continue the Jihad against the Crusaders. May God strike you all."

Families of 'Chechen Four' want truth

FOREIGN Office minister Tony Lloyd was last night under growing pressure to explain the full details of the Government's dealings with the four engineers who were murdered in Chechnya last month.

Yesterday *The Independent* revealed that, despite publicly insisting it had advised the men not to travel there, it had actually asked them to report back on conditions in Chechnya. The developments came as the family of one of the victims, Darren Hickey, prepare to bury the

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

26-year-old at a Roman Catholic Church in Kingston, Surrey today. Mr Hickey's sister Deborah, said yesterday: "It's hypocritical of the Foreign Office. When the men were killed they were blaming Granger Telecom. They knew that this had been going on."

Yesterday Tony foreign affairs spokeswoman Cheryl Gillan demanded a full explanation of what the Government had said to Granger Telecom,

which employed three of the men. Yesterday she wrote to Mr Lloyd saying: "You refer to the department's 'formal advice'. This begs the question as to whether informal advice was given. You also pose a series of questions which would give the impression to any reasonable person that you were more than content to allow Granger's work to continue."

"The tone of the letter clearly could be interpreted as informal encouragement to the company to ... provide infor-

mation to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office."

Three of the men, Rudolf Petschi, 42, Darren Hickey and Stanley Shaw, 38, were employed by Granger to install mobile telephone equipment. A fourth, Peter Kennedy 46, worked for British Telecom. After the men were kidnapped in October last year, the Foreign Office insisted that its advice had been not to travel to Chechnya. After they were executed, Mr Lloyd told the Commons, that the advice had

been "clear and unambiguous". But in a letter written last August, the Foreign Office said that since the company was in Chechnya it would "welcome" its views on the opportunities for investment, the influential people in the republic and any information about Jon James and Camilla Carr, two British aid workers who were being held hostage in Chechnya.

Peter Kennedy's MP, Liberal Democrat Paul Keetch, said yesterday he did not think there was anything wrong with ask-

ing the company to report back on Ms Carr and Mr James. But he added: "There is a need for an inquiry, not only into what was said but on the whole issue of travel advice given to people travelling to dangerous places."

A Foreign Office spokesman refused to say whether any information was passed to the intelligence services but said it would have been "irresponsible in the extreme" not to ask about Mr James and Ms Carr. **Leading article.** **Review page 3**

DNA 'robot' could repair body tissue

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS HAVE built a "gene machine" out of DNA which could form the basis of a robot small enough to be injected into the body to repair tissues.

A breakthrough in building DNA molecules that can be moved at will might be the forerunner of robots which could patrol the body in a similar way to the submarine adventure in the film *Fantastic Voyage*. A robotic arm has been made of DNA molecules in an attempt to build machines for chemical factories so small that hundreds could fit on a pin-head.

Some scientists envisage that more advanced versions of the robots could guard the body, seeking and destroying invading microbes, scraping furred-up arteries and repairing tissues ravaged by ageing.

The robotic arm is thousands of times smaller than the smallest metal cogs and wheels, themselves only visible under a microscope, that have been made as part of research into nano-technology.

The devices are on the scale of a millionth of a millimetre. Scientists at New York University, led by Nadrian Seeman, a chemistry professor, built the arm of a nano-robot out of strands of DNA, the chemical blueprint of organisms, which has the innate abil-



'Fantastic Voyage': Not so far-fetched a concept now

ity to replicate itself. "Using synthetic DNA ... we have constructed a controllable molecular-mechanical system ... In the long term the work will have implications for the development of nano-scale robots and for molecular manufacturing," Professor Seeman said.

His team has already made static devices from DNA but this is believed to be the first time anyone has produced a moving structure from a biological molecule.

A more immediate goal of the research is to place nano-robots on a "production line" to make complex substances, such as genetically engineered drugs, that are now made by micro-organisms. Professor Seeman said there are still formidable obstacles to using roving robots in the body but it is the kind of futuristic application many people are thinking about.

IN BRIEF

Poor 'need savings scheme help'

A LOW-COST current account offered through the Post Office and flexible financial products are needed to help poor consumers avoid being driven to loan sharks, the Office of Fair Trading said today. The watchdog said in a report that millions of people on low-incomes and benefits were being excluded from essential financial services.

Drunken pair on airport runway

A DRUNKEN couple were arrested after walking into the path of an incoming aircraft at Manchester airport. The pilot was forced to circle for 15 minutes on Tuesday as police removed Wayne Wormald of Manchester and Jacqueline Wasicki of Chesham Hill and charged them with trespassing and endangering the safety of an aircraft.

Jobless interviews condemned

GOVERNMENT PLANS to make jobless single parents and the disabled attend interviews or lose benefits were condemned. *Mencap* said interviewers would not be able to communicate with people with learning difficulties and the National Council for One-Parent Families said it could make parents put work ahead of responsibilities as parents.

Speed-up in air pollution curbs

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced an accelerated crackdown on air pollution, but admitted that it could not meet its current target to reduce the pollutants regarded as the most health-threatening - particulates. These microscopic particles emitted by lorries and buses are thought to account for thousands of deaths a year.

Crisis in Ulster hospitals

A CRISIS meeting was held in Belfast last night as more than 80 patients waited in hospitals across Northern Ireland for emergency surgery for broken bones. Local Health Minister John McFall has admitted there is a shortage of orthopaedic surgeons in the province and said more would be recruited.

ANN TRENEMAN

Unconditional love is a pretty hard thing to come by these days

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 5

first direct

do things
where
you want

hassle free 24 hour banking

0800 24 24 24

www.firstdirect.co.uk

For full written details of our services write to First Direct, Freeport, Leeds LS98 2RF. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over. Member HSBC Group

"I just can't resist a bargain"

Treat yourself to
3 nights
for the price of 2
at Posthouse



London	3 nights	North of England	3 nights
London - Bloomsbury	£130	Bolton* (The Beaumont)	£84
London - Gatwick	£110	Brighouse	£100
London - Hampstead	£124	Carlisle	£88
London - Heathrow	£100	Chester	£96
London - Regent's Park	£138	Grimby	£84
		Heydock	£90
South of England	3 nights	Hull	£84
Ashford	£88	Hull Marina	£104
Basingstoke	£86	Lancaster	£88
Bexley	£88	Leeds/Bradford	£104
Bristol	£104	Leeds/Selby	£82
Croydon	£92	Leeds (The Queen's)	£120
Dover	£88	Liverpool* (The Gladstone)	£82
Fareham	£96	Manchester	£82
Farnborough	£108	Manchester Airport	£100
Guildford	£108	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£84
Havant	£96	Preston	£84
Hemel Hempstead	£88	Sheffield	£90
Maldstone/Sevenoaks	£88	Teesside	£82
Plymouth	£96	Wakefield	£82
Portsmouth	£96	Warrington/Runcorn	£88
Reading	£100	Washington	£80
Rochester	£84	York	£90
South Mimms	£96	East of England	3 nights
Southampton	£96	Basildon	£78
Southampton/Eastleigh	£90	Brentwood	£108
Swindon	£90	Cambridge	£96
Taunton	£90	Colchester	£92
		Epping	£90
Central England	3 nights	Ilkeston	£88
Aylesbury	£88	Leeds	£88
Birmingham	£78	Leeds/Selby	£88
Birmingham Airport	£114	Peterborough	£78
Birmingham City	£90	Stevenage	£84
Coventry	£90		
Derby/Burton	£88		
Gloucester	£92		
High Wycombe	£90		
Leicester	£78		
Lincoln	£82		
Milton Keynes	£94		
Nottingham City	£98		
Nottingham/Derby	£88		
Walsall* (The Boundary)	£82		
Scotland, Ireland and Wales	3 nights		
Aberdeen	£80		
Belfast	£74		
Cardiff	£88		
Cardiff City	£88		
Dublin Airport (IRE)	£114		
Edinburgh	£110		
Glasgow (Erskine Bridge)	£82		
Glasgow Airport	£76		
Glasgow City	£78		
Swansea	£90		

Posthouse

Offer available for breaks taken up to and including 14 Feb 1999. See your travel agent or call

0345 40 40 40

Quoting reference NEW YEAR 6

A division of Park Hotels



truth

truth

truth

truth

truth

truth

truth

Additive in toys linked to cancer

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

A GROUP of chemicals commonly used to soften children's toys are almost 20 times more dangerous than previously thought, research shows.

James Bridges, a British scientist reviewing the matter for the European Commission, said parents should "take precautions" to stop children chewing toys at length. The data has prompted bans on the chemicals' use in toys in six countries but not yet in the UK.

Studies in the Netherlands show the softeners, phthalates, found in teething rings and other items that children under three chew on, are easily released into saliva. Animal tests have found high doses of two common phthalates, DINP and DEHP, can cause liver and kidney cancer, and shrink testicles.

The European Commission considered a blanket ban in June, before the Dutch results were published. The move, backed by the EU commissioner Emma Bonino, failed by one vote. "I think Madame Bonino would have pushed harder for action to be taken if she had seen these results at the time," Professor Bridges said yesterday.

Though phthalates are widely used in industry to soften hard plastics such as PVC, their use in toys has become controversial because children's low weight, developing biology and potentially long exposure makes them relatively more sensitive to chemicals. Furthermore, many toys are designed to be sucked.

The Dutch tests, done with adults, investigated how much DINP would be released into saliva and potentially swallowed when a toy was sucked. Preliminary results alarmed

the scientists sufficiently that they recommended halving infants' exposure time and lowering the allowable exposure of the chemicals eighteen-fold.

"The worry is about children continually chewing these," said Professor Bridges. "You can either have no risk - by removing the toy - or stop children chewing them continuously. But we are particularly concerned about children who are institutionalised, say in a poorly run day-care centre or hospital, since they tend to chew toys because they have nothing else to do."

After the results were released, six countries, including Austria and Canada, banned the chemicals from children's toys, while Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Greece are preparing legal grounds to ban them.

A spokesman for the British Plastics Federation, representing the industry, said yesterday: "We are not aware of this Dutch research but we do know that the information and experience available to us hasn't shown any problems at all with plastic products made from products of this type."

But he added: "Manufacturers are moving away from making toys with these plasticisers."

Greenpeace, which first raised questions about the safety of phthalates in 1997, said it will encourage the European Commission to reconsider a ban, based on the new results. A spokesman for Greenpeace said: "The worst thing is that the EU let Christmas, the major toy-selling period, go by without taking any action."



Paul Duckett (main picture) the natural father of Jade (top left) who is missing along with her sister Hannah (top right) and Jeff and Jennifer Bramley (above) Gavin Fogg

Custody case looms as natural mother of girls on the run backs foster family

THE FUTURE of the two little girls who disappeared with their foster parents was thrown into more turmoil yesterday when the natural father of the eldest suggested that he would fight for custody.

His intervention came hours after the children's natural mother said she would support Jeff and Jennifer Bramley - who disappeared with the girls the day they were due to hand them back to social services - in their attempts to adopt.

Paul Duckett, the father of five-year-old Jade Bennett, said he had contacted a solicitor and was prepared to go to court. "I am not happy with the present circumstances," he said.

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

Mr Duckett, 24, added he was certain that Jackie Bennett, Jade and Hannah's mother, would regret her decision to help the Bramleys to adopt her children.

The Bramleys were turned down after social services decided they were too strict. But in an open letter published yesterday, they wrote: "Social services seemed pleased with us. Everything was fine until one day they said we were too safety conscious, saying 'no' and 'don't' too often to the girls... we are two good, honest, caring people who are willing to give up our home, our family and

friends and jobs to maintain Jade and Hannah's happiness in keeping them with the parents they love."

Ms Bennett had previously insisted she wanted her daughters back but after seeing the Bramleys' letter she said she changed her mind.

But Mr Duckett, who said he has been in a stable relationship for the last four years, claimed his former partner was fragile and might have been overwhelmed by the emotional pleading in the Bramleys' letter.

"She started off saying she wants them back, but she loves those children and I worry that she has been manipulated into

saying that she will give them up," he said.

Mr Duckett, who runs a computer company, admitted that he had not seen his daughter for nearly three years but said he still loved her.

"I tried to keep in touch but it was very difficult because Jackie kept moving around."

"Living with me would be the best solution for her because I am her father and I am not going to walk away," Mr Duckett said he had no sympathy with the Bramleys and didn't believe they should be allowed to adopt the children. They didn't seem to be the caring parents I thought they were."

Cambridgeshire Social Ser-

vices has refused to elaborate on why the Bramleys were refused permission to adopt the children but a spokesman said: "It is incredibly unusual for a local authority to terminate a placement and the last time we did it was 10 years ago."

"That is an indication of how seriously the situation is taken. There were significant areas of their parenting skills that caused concern and after careful consideration a decision was taken that this would not be an appropriate placement for the two girls."

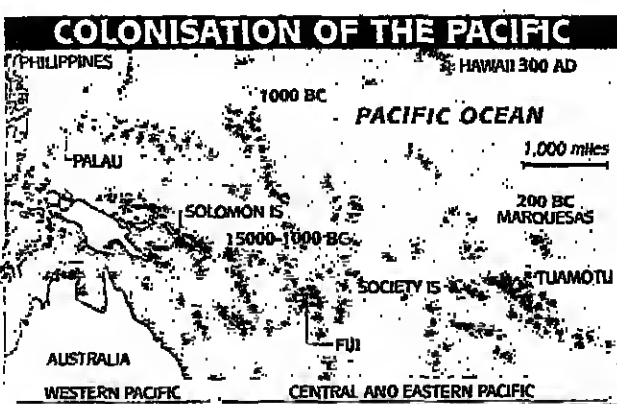
It is 17 weeks since the Bramleys disappeared. They took only £5,000 with them and have made no further with-

drawals since. Their car, found in York more than two weeks ago, has been impounded by the police. Last week there was a sighting reported on a train in North Yorkshire.

Their emotional letter would seem to be the first step towards admitting that they want to come home. But even when they do turn up, the future of the two small children will still hang in the balance as the adults fight over where they should live.

Police were yesterday checking reported sightings of the Bramleys in Nottingham, where the letter was posted.

Ann Treneman, Review, Page 5



Two-inch lizard to solve long-distance mystery

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

A TINY lizard less than two inches long may help to solve the mystery of how quickly early human explorers managed to colonise the remote islands of the Pacific Ocean.

One of the biggest challenges facing anthropologists has been explaining how the Polynesians managed to navigate across thousands of miles of open ocean in small canoes.

Scientists have two rival theories. One suggested that it was gradual, over many thousands of years, and involved several groups of colonisers. The other theory, called the "express train to Polynesia", postulated that it was a rapid affair, taking no more than a few cen-

turies, and involved a single stock of people from Southeast Asia.

Archaeological, linguistic and genetic research of present-day Polynesians has given a range of dates for when each island was first colonised.

However, Christopher Austin, an evolutionary biologist from the South Australian Museum in Adelaide, said a genetic

analysis of *Lipinia noctua*, a "vagabond" lizard on Pacific islands that can stow away on boats, suggests the express train theory is correct.

He studied 29 lizards collected from 15 different Pacific islands, spanning Palau in the west to Tuamotu in the east. The results, published in the journal *Nature*, show that the lizards are so similar to each

other that they must have developed very recently from a common population.

The lizard, sometimes called the moth skink, spends much of its time hiding under the bark of trees, and could have stowed away on the canoes of early seafarers.

"All the lizards from the central and eastern Pacific - all the islands east of the Solomon

Islands - were nearly genetically identical, demonstrating a close relationship as a result of a very rapid colonisation of the Pacific," Dr Austin said.

"One of the most adventurous and bold episodes in human history was the colonisation of the Pacific Islands, and these lizards have provided us with valuable information as to how humans got to these islands."

"Lowest UK SVR Mortgage 1996 - 1998" Source: Moneyfacts

Save money. Switch to a better mortgage rate. (With 0% hassle.)

Lender	APR (Variable)	SVR	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Total Payable (gross)	Total Saving with Direct Line*
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	8.2%	7.70%	£589.35	£183,312.81	£11,853.81
WOOLWICH	8.2%	7.70%	£589.94	£182,580.00	£11,121.00
ABBEY NATIONAL	8.0%	7.60%	£584.33	£181,436.07	£9,977.07
DIRECT LINE	7.4%	7.14%	£555.47	£171,459.00	-

*APR based on standard variable rate repayment mortgages. All rates correct as of 14 January 1999. MRRAS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may alter. Source: Moneyfacts. Calculations based on a £20,000 repayment mortgage repayable over 25 years (300 monthly repayments) with rates (as quoted) assumed constant.

The table says it all: you're currently paying way too much for your Standard Variable Rate Mortgage. By moving it to Direct Line, you could save up to £34 a month. Over a year you could be saving up to £400. Which could mean an extra holiday. And across the entire term of the loan, the saving can grow to as much as £11,800. Or, put another way, a new car. With Direct Line, you'll find there's no arrangement fee, no valuation fee, no mortgage indemnity fee. And because we calculate interest daily not annually, you save money on your mortgage. You don't have to move to more your mortgage, call Direct Line now to find out how much extra you could have in your pocket.

0181 649 9099 LONDON **0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER** **0141 221 9099 GLASGOW**

CALL ANYTIME 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. NIND47

www.directline.com/mortgages Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH.

first direct

do things how you want

hassle free 24 hour banking

0800 24 24 24

www.firstdirect.co.uk

For full written details of our services write to First Direct, Freeport, Leeds LS98 2PL. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over. Member HSBC Group

"...Hitchcock would definitely have approved."

NICK FISHER - THE SUN

"...Everything about this film smacks of class."

RICH GILBEY - THE EXPRESS

DEVIL ON THE CROSS

IN CINEMAS EVERYWHERE NOW

Inspectors want 'setting' for 5-year-olds

PUTTING CHILDREN as young as five in school sets helps to raise standards, inspectors said yesterday.

A survey of 400,000 lessons and 900 schools backs the Government's belief that children achieve more if they are grouped by ability for different subjects. Setting is different from streaming in which pupils of similar ability are taught together for all subjects.

The proportion of settled lessons in primary schools has doubled to 4 per cent in a year. An analysis of more than 20 major studies recently found that setting and streaming made no difference to pupils' achievement. Children in the bottom sets tended to give up and some of the brighter ones became over-confident about their ability, said the report from the National Foundation for Educational Research.

But inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education said that nearly all of the schools inspected "demonstrated a clear trend of rising standards for pupils of all abilities once the use of setting had been established".

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

ities once the use of setting had been established".

The report argued that there was no reason why some setting should not be used, particularly in maths, from the age of five or six, provided that it was sensitively organised.

Inspectors visited more than 50 schools and found that national test scores in settled subjects improved "in some cases spectacularly" between 1996 and 1997.

However, the report warned that setting did not compensate for poor teaching and must be carefully planned. Schools needed to build in safeguards to avoid "the low-esteem and the negative labelling of pupils which can occur in lower sets".

But inspectors found no evidence that pupils in the bottom sets were badly motivated and badly behaved. "The vast majority of pupils see advantages to setting, accept the purpose and fairness of their allocation to a particular set and like

having more than one teacher."

A postal survey of 900 schools found that six out of ten junior schools and more than a third of infant schools used sets for at least one subject. Maths was most commonly set. Pupils of different ages were taught together in two-thirds of the schools that used sets for maths and one-quarter of those that used sets for English. Boys tended to predominate in the bottom sets and inspectors said schools were not doing enough to discover the reasons.

Schools took into account aptitude and interest as well as test scores when they allocated children to sets. The report pointed out that only a handful of pupils appeared to transfer sets, up or down, and warned that setting needed to be flexible.

Of the schools that used sets, 96 per cent did for maths, 69 per cent for English and 9 per cent for science. A very few also set for French and music and for team games in physical education.

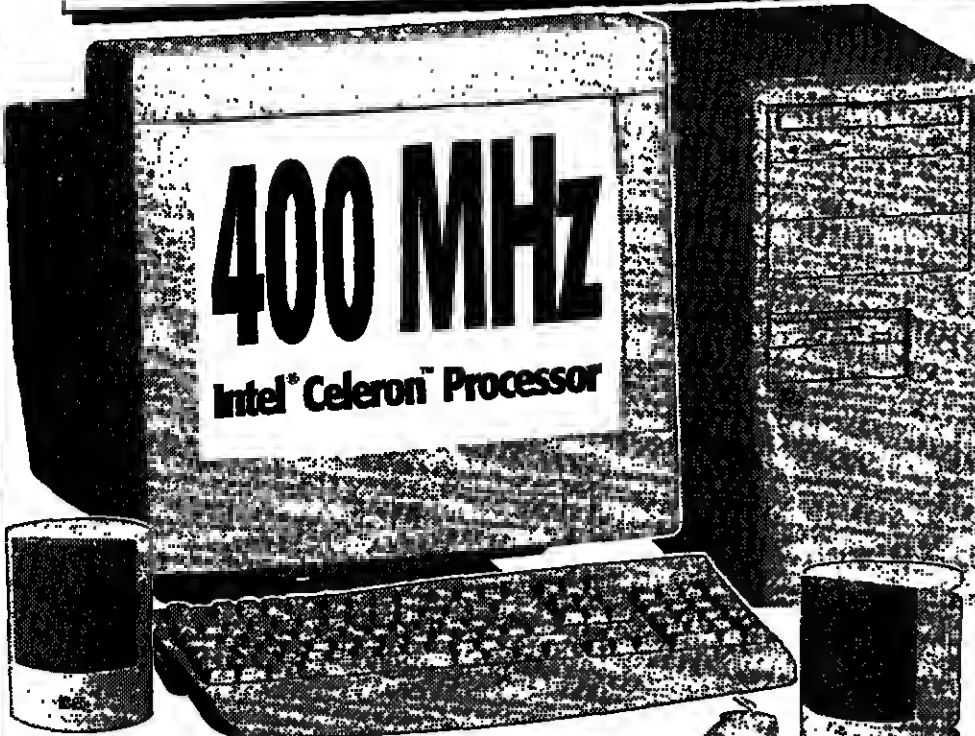


Government inspectors believe that grouping pupils by ability for different subjects causes standards to rise

Martin Rickett

New Intel® Processor PCs

AVAILABLE IN-STORE TODAY



ADVENT 400MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

- 64Mb SDRAM
- 128k Cache Memory
- 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- 32x Multimedia
- 8Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics

- Creative Labs Soundblaster 64-bit PCI Soundcard with Speakers
- 56k v.90 Modem

FREE 17" MONITOR UPGRADE**

8.6Gb HARD DISK

CREATIVE LABS SOUNDBLASTER 64-BIT PCI SOUND CARD

56k v.90 MODEM

PC WORLD PRICE
£880.08 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*



4x DVD DRIVE

FREE 17" MONITOR UPGRADE**

56k v.90 MODEM

8Mb 3D AGP ATI RAGE PRO GRAPHICS

ADVENT

400MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor with DVD

- 64Mb SDRAM, 128k Cache Memory, 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk, Hitachi 4x DVD Drive, Creative Labs Soundblaster 64-bit PCI Soundcard with Speakers, 56k v.90 Modem, 4x 17" Colour Monitor (Free upgrade from 15").

Windows 98, Lotus SmartSuite Millennium with IBM ViaVoice, IBM World Book 99, FIFA 99, and more. MODEL: 8272.

PC WORLD PRICE
£997.58 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

ACER

333MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

56k MODEM

SELECT OVER 1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE*

PC WORLD PRICE
£799 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

228Mb RAM, 4.6Gb Hard Disk, 128k Cache Memory, 32x Multimedia, 8Mb AGP Graphics, 56k Modem, 15" Colour Monitor, Windows 98 Plus select over £1000 worth of software.

MODEL: Acer 600A.

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

PC WORLD PRICE
£680 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

PACKARD BELL

333MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

56k DATA/FAX/VOICE MODEM

FREE OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE*

PC WORLD PRICE
£899 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

64Mb SDRAM, 4.6Gb Hard Disk, 128k Cache Memory, 32x Multimedia, 8Mb AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics, 56k Modem, 15" Colour Monitor, FREE over £1000 worth of software.

MODEL: Packard Bell CXX Vite C1000.

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

PC WORLD PRICE
£765.17 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

PACKARD BELL

366MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

NEW 260 MBH INTEL® CELERON™ PROCESSOR

FREE OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE*

PC WORLD PRICE
£999 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

64Mb SDRAM, 4.6Gb Hard Disk, 128k Cache Memory, 32x Multimedia, 8Mb AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics, 56k Modem, 15" Colour Monitor, FREE over £1000 worth of software.

MODEL: Packard Bell CXX Vite C1000.

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

PC WORLD PRICE
£850.57 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

Firm to bid for hundreds of schools

AN AMERICAN-INSPIRED company has plans to take over hundreds of state schools and run them for profit, its head has disclosed. The Education Partnership, which is bidding to manage the first school to be put out to tender, said it hoped to build a network of privately managed schools running into three figures within five years.

James Tooley, a right-wing Newcastle University academic whose ideas include replacing A-levels and GCSEs with IQ tests and lowering the school-leaving age to 14, is chairman of the Education Partnership, a company closely linked with the New York-based Edison Project, an enterprise that aims to turn round inner-city schools for profit.

Education Partnership is a leading contender in the race to take over King's Manor School, Guildford. Four bidders will present proposals to Surrey County Council next week. Professor Tooley said: "Our ambition is that King's Manor will be just the first of the schools we would take over. There are 25,000 schools in the country and we would like to see most of those as private institutions." The company would be "trail-blazing" ideas pioneered in the US by Edison, which runs 50 schools, using advanced technology, aggressive target-setting and zero tolerance of failure.

Professor Tooley, whose report last year on educational research infuriated academics, said his company would also be registering interest in taking over local authority services after David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said that failing councils would have their functions put out to tender.

Education Partnership includes Gareth Newman, head of Brooke Weston City Technology College, in Corby, Northamptonshire, one of the pioneering specialist schools set up by the Conservatives to harness private investment for

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

education, and World ORT, an international Jewish training group that has an extensive Internet operation.

Andrew Povey, the Surrey education chairman, said: "We are looking for somebody to come up with new ideas who will make a difference to this particular situation."

Surrey has been backed by the Tory education spokesman, David Willetts.

It represents a problem for



Tooley: 'King's Manor will be just the first'

Mr Blunkett, who said schools will not be run for profit but has accepted that private firms can offer management expertise in the same way as they provide school meals, cleaning and other services.

The largest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, said it would not rule out legal action to prevent King's Manor being taken over. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, said the local authority had to be responsible for turning round a school.

Other companies bidding for King's Manor also expressed interest in taking over failing local authority services. Contenders include Nord Anglia and CFBT, both leading educational consultancies and providers of school services.

PC jailed for stealing pensioner's savings

A POLICE officer was jailed for nine months yesterday for stealing £700 from the savings of an 83-year-old widow who asked him for crime prevention advice.

PC Ken Davies, 44, took the cash from Doris Midwood after he visited her flat in Shipley, West Yorkshire, several times to give her "safe tips" in which to keep her cash. Davies was the local community constable.

In a three-day trial at Leeds Crown Court the officer, who

was described as "decent and honest" by colleagues, said he took the cash because he was under stress after several deaths in the family and immediately wanted to return it.

Judge Robert Taylor told him: "This was a very serious offence. It involved a grave breach of trust and taking advantage of an elderly and vulnerable person who was looking to you to advise and protect her."

**STORES NATIONWIDE
FOR YOUR NEAREST
STORE CALL
0990 464 464**

PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

APR 29.5%

**We won't
be beaten
on price**

*10% interest free if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local store within 7 days of purchase. We'll refund the difference guaranteed - provided you can produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer. **10% interest free if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local store within 7 days of purchase. We'll refund the difference guaranteed - provided you can produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer. *10% interest free if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local store within 7 days of purchase. We'll refund the difference guaranteed - provided you can produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer. **10% interest free if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local store within 7 days of purchase. We'll refund the difference guaranteed - provided you can produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer.

150



Six clocks in Nash Court, Canary Wharf, London, by designer Konstantin Grcic, will be seen by commuters as they leave the main entrance of the Jubilee line tube station due to be completed later this year. Philip Meech

Fewer than three in ten viewers watching BBC1

THE CONTINUED growth of satellite television and the success of Channel 5 have combined to push BBC1's audience share below the 30 per cent mark for the first time.

According to official industry figures to be published shortly, BBC1's share fell to 29.5 per cent in 1998 from 30.8 per cent the previous year, a decline almost matched by ITV, which slipped back by 1.2 percentage points to 31.7 per cent.

The drop comes at a sensitive time for the corporation as it sets about convincing both the Government and public of the validity of the universal licence fee in the multi-channel age. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has just appointed a panel headed by the economist Gavin Davies to advise on setting the level of the fee until 2006.

"You've got to put the fall in the context of 19 new channels coming on stream and a further 12 doing massive relaunches," said a BBC spokeswoman.

BY RHYS WILLIAMS

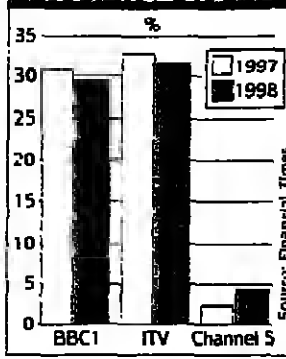
"You've also got the first real effect of Channel 5 being felt."

In any case, the BBC will argue, the corporation exists as a public service broadcaster to provide programmes that other networks do not offer in peak-time such as *The Life of Birds*, *The Human Body* or current affairs reports such as *Panorama*. "Our differentiation is our programming," added the spokeswoman. "We are all about quality and diversity although obviously we would like to show that to as wide an audience as possible."

Although Sir John Birt, the BBC's director-general, has consistently warned that audiences will inevitably decline as channels proliferate, the corporation is acutely aware that the lower its share, the more challenging it becomes to argue for a fee levied on every household.

This was one of the chief concerns underpinning the conflict between BBC Broadcast, which

AUDIENCE SHARE



commissions programmes for BBC1 and 2, and BBC News over the recent revamp of the main network's news output.

Conscious that bulletins provided soft spots in peak time against which commercial rivals could schedule popular programming, BBC Broadcast was keen to boost the appeal of the news with more "audience-friendly" presenters such as Jill Dando.

The other likely worry for Sir John is that cable and satellite gain has so far been, for the most

part, ITV's pain. But there is now evidence that ITV's rate of decline is slowing. Under a new management team appointed last year, ITV secured a 37.9 per cent share of viewing between 7pm and 10.30pm, compared with a target of 38 per cent.

The BBC can take some comfort from the fact that BBC2 has held up comparatively well. It slipped back by 0.3 points to 11.3 per cent in 1998, allowing the BBC's overall share to stay above 40 per cent and retain its place as the nation's leading broadcaster. With Channel 4 also retreating (by 0.3 points to 10.3), only one terrestrial network - Channel 5 - increased its audience.

At the end of 1998 (its first full calendar year on air), Channel 5 nearly doubled its share from 2.3 per cent in 1997 to 4.3 per cent as its mixture of movies beginning at the 9pm watershed and selected sports events such as Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup campaign last season appears to be paying dividends.

One HQ plan for all 999 services

RADICAL PLANS to create joint headquarters for police, fire and ambulance services across the United Kingdom are being drawn up by the Government in an attempt to improve emergency response times.

Pilot schemes for joint 999 call centres and shared buildings for the three emergency services were unveiled yesterday as part of a £120m drive to "revolutionise" public services.

Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Office minister, and Alan Milburn, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, announced a raft of new projects aimed at saving time and money for the public.

More than 33 schemes to encourage better co-ordination between different Whitehall departments and agencies were unveiled under the Government's Invest to Save programme over the next three years.

Joint centres for police, fire and ambulance services are aimed at saving life-saving minutes in response times, as well as cutting costs by getting the three services to co-operate.

The services would not merge all their facilities, but key infrastructure such as vehicle maintenance and telephone call centres would come under one roof. More than £7.8m has been set aside by the Department of Health to create three pilot projects for the new 999 services.

Elizabeth Neville, Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police and one of the bidders for the cash, said that joint centres could save "life-saving minutes" by enabling a more flexible response to emergencies on a "one call brings them all" basis.

Wiltshire already has some police cars fitted with defibril-

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

lators, which can save heart-attack victims' lives if applied in time. They patrol areas of the county which ambulances find it hardest to get to, she said.

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday he had been pushing the idea of joint call centres for the emergency services for some time.

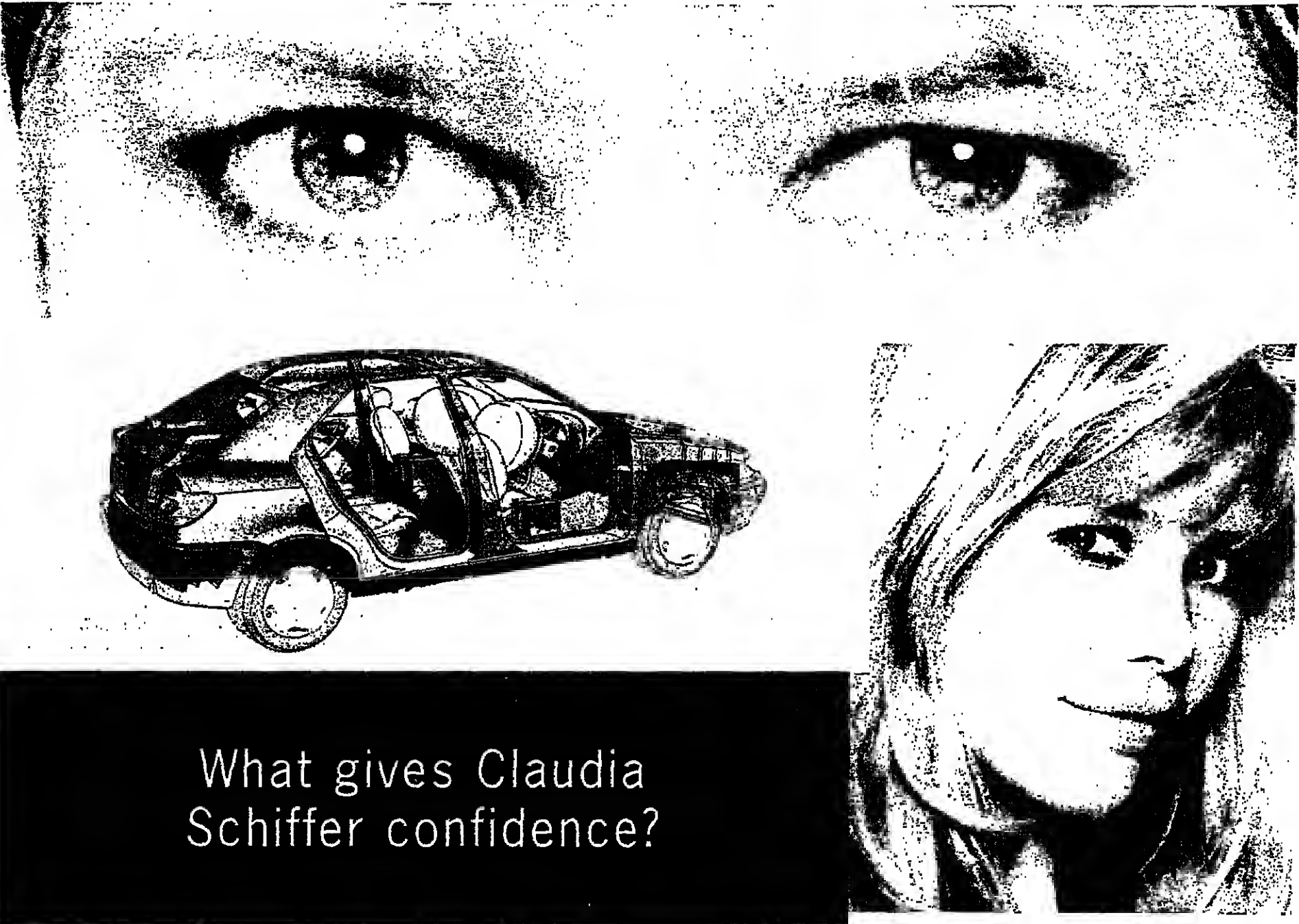
"The taxpayer can't be expected to pay out three times over and we must look for the best deal for all three services. This means looking at joint control and communication systems," he said.

"The acid test must be better services for patients and the public."

Other innovative schemes being backed by ministers include projects to cut house-buying times by linking all conveyancing agencies on the Internet, and a Scottish scheme to rehabilitate young offenders.

Dr Cunningham revealed he will publish a White Paper in the spring setting out Labour's vision for "radical modernisation" of public services. The paper would spell out the need for more strategic, long-term policy-making across departments, exploiting new technology to improve services and improving civil servants' performance through a new Civil Service Management College.

Half the schemes announced yesterday are pilot projects, to identify the scope for savings, which are said to be potentially "quite substantial". The other half are ready to start and are expected to save about £50m over the next three years.



Warren agrees to pay King £7.2m

BOXING PROMOTER Frank Warren agreed to pay US rival Don King £7.2million to end their partnership and settle their differences yesterday.

Mr Warren, who has had his business assets frozen by the High Court, has been locked into an acrimonious legal row as he sought to extricate himself from their four-year partnership.

He had not been able to stage key fights since the row began over a dispute over separate US TV rights negotiated outside of the Warren-King partnership for Prince Naseem Hamed.

Last night, the hefty pay-out seemed to melt the ice between two of the sport's craftiest fixers. Mr King, who will receive his cash in instalments

BY GARY FINN

said he was still "fond of Frank".

However, Mr Warren conceded that he may have to sell the family home to meet the first repayment.

Under the agreement, Mr Warren acknowledged his obligation to pay Mr King in recognition of his rights as a partner and publicly withdrew all the allegations which he had made against him and his company, Don King Promotions.

Outside court, Mr King commented: "My reputation is most important to me and the vindication of my rights both here and in America. The justice system here has given me justice and I am very, very happy."



Could it be her body? After all, the Xsara does come with a safety cell reinforced with a ring of steel. Could it be her wisdom? Knowing that you and your passenger are equipped with both front and side airbags to ensure you're confident. Could it be her wide profile? In the event of a collision, an energy-absorbing side-impact protection system helps to transfer the force of the impact away from the occupants. Or could it be her rear? Extra reassurance comes in the form of the well-rehearsed programmed rear wheel steering. Designed to help you avoid trouble in the first place, impressive attributes indeed. Made even more impressive when you consider the vital statistic: 3 years' 0% finance is available with only a 20% deposit, with prices starting at £11,940. For more information call 0800 262 262 and we'll be happy to tell you more. Well, if you've got it, it's yours.

CITROËN XSARA
NOTHING MOVES YOU LIKE A CITROËN

XSARA PRICES START FROM £11,940 ON THE ROAD. CAR SHOWN XSARA 1.8i 16V EXCLUSIVE, £16,170 ON THE ROAD (EXCLUDES OPTIONAL METALLIC PAINT, £225). ON THE ROAD PRICES INCLUDE £575 FOR DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES, 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE AND £25 GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE. 3 YEARS' 0% FINANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL XSARA MODELS. TYPICAL FINANCE EXAMPLE BASED ON XSARA 1.4i. ON THE ROAD PRICE, £11,940. DEPOSIT (20%), £2,388. 36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £265.99. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £11,940. CUSTOMER APR, 0%. FINANCE AVAILABLE TO OVER 18s ONLY AND SUBJECT TO STATUS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST FROM CITROËN FINANCE, VERNON HOUSE, STICILAN AVENUE, LONDON WC1A 9QQ. FINANCE OFFER APPLIES TO RETAIL REGISTRATIONS OF NEW XSARA MODELS ORDERED AND REGISTERED BETWEEN 1.12.98 AND 31.12.99. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. PASSENGER AND LATERAL AIRBAGS STANDARD ON MODELS BUILT AFTER 1.9.98.

Hague fails to draw blood in clash over health service

THE PAST three weeks of Labour in-fighting and turmoil should have been the perfect backdrop for a nuclear attack by William Hague against the Prime Minister. But, like many an over-hyped advance billing, the expected grudge match failed to materialise.

The pre-planned soundbites drafted by Mr Hague may have looked good on paper but they failed to deliver the knock-out blow Tories were hoping for. Mr Hague had prepared too much. Both sides fielded a full turn-out and a tanned but tense Prime Minister waited anxiously for Mr Hague's opening salvo. First, though, Mr Blair had

to endure the nightmare of Jim Dobbin (Lab, Heywood & Middleton) droning on about the sense of occasion he felt at "asking the first question in the last year of this millennium - I feel very important". He could not see Mr Blair looking irritated and impatient as he bored on, telling the Prime Minister how marvellous the New Deal and the latest unemployment figures were.

A momentarily hushed House then waited for Mr Hague, who wondered if Mr Blair regretted Frank Dobson's comments in autumn that the NHS could face the possibility of the winter with confidence. The question fell flat and Mr

Blair looked relieved and relaxed at the mere mention of the word "health". Adopting the tactic of Margaret Thatcher, he splattered endless statistics around the Chamber in an enthusiastic, confident, manner.

It took him no time at all to say any current shortcomings were the result of the Tory years of NHS mismanagement. True or not, while this tactic may one day eventually run its course, it still plays well for the moment with Labour MPs. The opportunity was now presented for the Prime Minister to reveal details of his secret, Princess of Wales-style visit to an accident and emergency

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

unit the previous evening. At first hand, he said, he was told of the shortage of nurses and lack of investment, which he blamed on the

Tories' record. Mr Hague retorted that Mr Blair always had to blame someone else.

But he then made a misjudgement by weaving the events surrounding the recent scandals and resignations into the same batch of questions. Normally Mr Hague sensibly raises his second issue later on during question time but yesterday he fired all his ammunition at once in a scatter-gun approach. While the tactic was not a total disaster, neither was it a roaring success, and enabled Mr Blair to riposte with: "It didn't take him long to get off the health service."

The Tory leader continued firing indiscriminately at the Peter Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson targets but Mr Blair ducked and dived as the bullets merely grazed him without drawing any blood.

Mr Hague's best line was when he denounced suggestions of Mr Mandelson's early return to government. "The comeback kid is the kick-back kid." This got his troops cheering politely but they looked mildly disappointed. Nick Hawkins (C, Surrey Heath) raised the holiday absence of the Blair children from school after term had started but he was shot down in flames by the Speaker. "We don't allow our families to be used as bat-

tering-rams." It was left to the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, to put the boot into Labour's alleged failure to deliver their promises on crime, health and education. Unusually, he went for the Prime Minister with an aggressive, shrieking voice that belied the lovey-dovey relationship they are supposed to enjoy. It may have been overdone to keep in check disgruntled Liberal Democrats who do not like talk of pacts with Labour. Whatever Mr Ashdown's motives, Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) shouted to Mr Blair: "Sack him," which got the best laugh of an otherwise scrappy and scruffy session.

Labour woes 'made NHS crisis worse'

PM'S QUESTION TIME
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE claimed yesterday the past weeks of turmoil within the Government had been a "disgrace" that had directly affected the crisis in the NHS.

The Tory leader used the first Prime Minister's question time of the year to attack the "personal feuds" that erupted over the Christmas recess.

He told the House of Commons: "While the NHS has been in crisis, personal feuds have taken the place of political principle, personal loaths have taken the place of political priorities."

But Tony Blair insisted that while there were "still huge problems in the health service" it was impossible to "put right 20 years of neglect in schools and health in 20 months."

However, Mr Hague went on to accuse the Prime Minister of having tried to protect Peter Mandelson, the former secretary of state for trade and industry, and now wanting to rehabilitate him even though the past few weeks had "been a disgrace".

"It is time you buried the spin-doctoring politics of New Labour with the self-serving, high-living career of the politician who invented it...you are treating him like the Come-



William Hague: Attacking Labour yesterday

back Kid when he is actually the Kickback Kid.

"No matter how often you re-launch it, a Government that believes in everything and believes in nothing cannot succeed."

The rowdy exchanges followed three weeks of upheavals and turmoil for the Government, overshadowed by the resignations of Mr Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson as Paymaster-General and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's press secretary, Charlie Whelan.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, told Mr Blair: "Electors did not vote to kick out the Tories and see public services worsen."

But the Prime Minister said the extra £2.5bn investment in the NHS had ensured that it was getting through the winter

in much better shape than would have been the case.

Mr Hague said: "What we have seen in the last few weeks is intensive care bed availability at the lowest ever, we've seen doctors and nurses under even more pressure than before."

"We've seen pregnant women told not to give birth, we've seen refrigerated lorries used as temporary morgues, we've seen people on trolleys in hospitals - all people who were told they could look forward to the winter with confidence."

To Labour jeers, Mr Hague added: "To you there is always someone else to blame. The NHS is in crisis and you say the Government is innocent. Whatever happens in this Government, everybody always says they are innocent."

"The Trade and Industry Secretary resigns and he's innocent. The Paymaster-General resigns, and now we know why he was called the Paymaster-General, and he's meant to be innocent. The Chancellor's press secretary resigns, or intends to resign, and he's innocent. The NHS is in crisis and you're innocent - St Tony, the Angel of Islington, is always innocent!"

But Mr Blair said there was a shortage of nurses because the Tories cut by 4,000 the number of places between 1992 and 1994 and there were 2,500 more trainee nurses today than at the last general election.



Adele Starr, 12, giving Alan Howarth, the Culture, Media and Sport minister, a lesson on a new computer system that has been installed at Chesterfield library. Users of Derbyshire's 30 largest libraries can now surf the Internet, and use CD-Rom and video links. *Andrew Fox*

Tories accuse ministers of going soft on housing fraud

MINISTERS WERE accused last night of "outrageous" laxity toward benefit crime after it emerged that newly introduced government guidelines had led to a sharp fall in fraud detection across the country.

Housing benefit fraud investigators have estimated that they will lose up to £200m a year because of a little-known circular issued by the Department of Social Security.

Town halls are reporting a 60 per cent drop in the level of fraud detection as a result of the new DSS rules that tightened the rules of evidence. Until last year, a "balance of probabilities" system operated and investi-

SOCIAL SECURITY
BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

gators could suspend benefit on suspicion of illegality and provide concrete proof later.

The DSS circular informed councils that they would no longer be compensated for money lost to fraudsters unless they provided surveillance and other evidence to prove that the fraud was deliberate.

Councils claim that the Government has "changed the goalposts" in a bid to save itself millions of pounds while claiming that fraud was dropping. Anti-fraud units across the UK

claim the new system penalises them and could result in job losses or rises in council tax.

Senior Tories are set to raise the issue in the Commons today, when they will claim the circular proves that ministerial rhetoric on tackling fraud is not matched by reality.

Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative social security spokesman, said that the DSS change was an "outrageous" example of the Government watering down the campaign against fraud.

"We always worried that Labour was soft on benefit crime and this proves it. This circular is a politically motivated sleight of hand to save the

department millions," he said.

Mr Duncan Smith claimed that the Social Security minister Angela Eagle had misled the House of Commons on Monday when she denied that anti-fraud strategies had been watered down.

Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, denied the Tory charges last night. "Since I arrived at the DSS, I have ended the 'money for nothing' culture. The new system of housing benefit fraud targets produces real fraud savings not fictional ones. In the next few weeks I shall be making a major announcement on my anti-fraud strategy."

A spokeswoman for the DSS said that the changes had been introduced after claims that some councils had been over-claiming the level of fraud in their area. £100m was being directed into improving fraud prevention for local authorities. The total amount of money saved by local authority fraud investigation units in 1997-98 was £242m, with the majority of town halls saving nearly £2m each on average.

The National Audit Office reported this week that there was "no evidence of any improvement" in stemming the losses from benefit fraud suffered by councils.

Care system 'confused'

THE PROVISION of care to patients with both health and social needs is confused, inadequate and riven with inconsistencies, a committee of MPs reported yesterday.

The Commons Select Committee on Health condemned the present system under which the NHS provides health-care while local councils look after social services. "Responsibilities are blurred, professionals face unnecessary problems and users and carers

SOCIAL SERVICES
BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

are suffering because of barriers created by structural division which is based on an ill-defined and arguably non-existent boundary," the MPs said.

The committee found evidence that people coming out of hospital faced a "constant battle" to find out what social service care was available. One stroke victim received no help

at home for six months after leaving hospital - because she did not know who to ask. Terminal cancer victims who left hospitals to die sometimes had to wait almost a month before their needs were assessed.

Radical reform was needed, the MPs said, adding: "We consider that the problems of collaboration between health and social services will not be properly resolved until there is an integrated health and social care system."

BANK OF SCOTLAND® INTEREST RATE CHANGE.

With effect from 7th January 1999, interest rates payable on the undernoted accounts have changed.



BRITANNIC GROUP SERVICES LIMITED IN ASSOCIATION WITH BANK OF SCOTLAND

BRITANNIC SOVEREIGN ACCOUNT	AER%*	Gross%*	Net%*
Balances up to £1,999	3.81%	3.75%	3.00%
Balances from £2,000 to £4,999	4.85%	4.75%	3.80%
Balances from £5,000	5.37%	5.25%	4.20%

BANK OF SCOTLAND®

For up to date rates please phone the Britannic Sovereign Account Line on 0845 263 6561. Telephone calls will be recorded for security purposes and may be monitored under Britannic's regular control procedures. The Britannic Sovereign Account is offered through Britannic Group Services Limited, a subsidiary of Britannic Assurance and is provided by Bank of Scotland. *AER (Annual Effective Rate) This represents the annual rate effectively received by the customer if interest at the gross rate applied during a year is reinvested in the account and most earned interest. No money is added for a savings product where a rate is displayed will contain an AER. You will be able to compare more easily what return you can expect from your savings over time. **Gross - The rate of interest paid without the deduction of lower rate tax in eligible non-taxpayers. ***Net - The rate of interest payable after the deduction of lower rate tax in eligible non-taxpayers. Interest rates subject to variation. Bank of Scotland and BSC are registered trademarks of The Government and Company of the Bank of Scotland. Bank of Scotland subsidiaries in The Banking Code.

THE HOUSE



Protection Bill

A BILL to improve the protection of children from physical and sexual abuse by introducing a list of people unsuitable to work with them was given a formal first reading yesterday. It was introduced by Debra Shipley, Labour MP for Stourbridge.

Post Office bid

THE PRICE paid by the Post Office for German Parcel was its annual turnover plus any special assets, Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry minister said. Previously, acquisition estimates were not given as they were commercially sensitive.

No pardons

THE GOVERNMENT resisted calls for pardons for 343 British servicemen shot for desertion in the First World War as little evidence survived.

Spinning 'won't stop'

THE PROBLEM of spin-doctoring will "never completely go away", Jack Cunningham, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, said yesterday amid growing concern about the influence of press aides such as Alastair Campbell.

Speaking during a Liberal Democrat-led Opposition debate on government information, Dr Cunningham said that the record briefings were an enduring fact of political life. "Much is made out of anonymous comments and quotes. The very fact that they are anonymous makes it very difficult for anyone, however great the will, to do anything about them at all."

Dr Cunningham, in charge of

INFORMATION DEBATE
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

co-ordinating the presentation of government policy, said Liberal Democrats took part in the process too. "We all know when we read in the newspapers, don't we, quotes which say 'friends of Mr Ashdown', we know what that is - that's Mr Ashdown, that's Mr Ashdown's office. We all know the code and we read that quite frequently."

Some political journalists, however, were "absolutely addicted" to spin-doctoring, he added, stressing: "The reality is that it's never going to completely go away, but there is absolutely no evidence of any

abuse of power by Mr Campbell." Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrats deputy leader, demanded to be told the duties of Chancellor Gordon Brown's press secretary, Charlie Whelan, now he was a resign.

"Does he sit at his desk reading through the job adverts and sending out his CV or is he actually engaged in government work? Will he be restricted in the private sector posts that he can take up, because of access to government information that he has had and is he continuing to have that kind of access?"

"I think we are entitled to know that. Other senior Treasury civil servants would be restricted if they moved out to the private sector."

Peers' leader promises war

GOVERNMENT HOPES of a speedy abolition of hereditary peers were dashed when Tories promised to continue a campaign of "trench warfare" against the plans.

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader in the Lords, said that some backbench peers were likely to draft wrecking amendments in a final protest at the changes. "Sunset clauses" would ensure the Bill will self-

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
BY PAUL WAUGH

destruct if the Government fails to carry out wholesale reform before the next election, he said yesterday.

The Government will bring forward a Bill abolishing the voting and sitting rights of hereditary peers next week, with the White Paper establishing a Royal Commission to

decide on the long-term shape of the second chamber. Ministers had hoped for Tory support for a crossbench compromise to allow 75 hereditary peers to remain in a transitional chamber, but Lord Strathclyde made clear no deals were likely.

"There will be trench warfare. Any question that this Bill is going to fly through the House of Lords without hardly a wave is absurd," he said.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Praise for vote on Euro fraud

THE EUROPEAN Parliament's planned vote of no confidence in the European Commission is a reflection of a "much tougher attitude and a much greater awareness" of the fraud problem, the Agriculture minister Lord Donoughue said.

Today's business

Commons: Questions to Education and Employment ministers. Debate on Public Accounts Committee reports. Fisheries debate. Lords: Social Security (Transfer of Functions) Bill, committee. Financing of Maintained Schools Regulations. Industrial Training Levy (Engineering Construction Board) Order. Industrial Training Levy (Construction Board) Order.

Private
medicine
ruine
life -
could
care l

TEST
DRIVE
YOUR
WILL
POWER.

'Private medicine ruined my life - and couldn't care less'

A PRIVATE patient who has been permanently maimed after the disgraced gynaecologist Rodney Ledward operated on her seven times has had her attempts to obtain help blocked because of the lack of regulation of the private sector.

Anita Hill's experience at the hands of Mr Ledward, who was struck off the medical register last September, fell so far short of acceptable standards that the NHS consultant she went to see recommended she sue for negligence. However, her attempts to elicit a response from Mr Ledward's legal advisers and medical insurers have so far failed.

Mrs Hill, 54, who spent seven years in and out of hospital and at one stage suffered a perforated bowel, was initially refused help by St Saviour's hospital in Hythe, Kent, despite a request from an NHS consultant who said she needed further surgery. St Saviour's is run by the British United Provident Association, Bupa.

The South East Kent community health council accused Bupa of "dragging its heels" over the issue and lawyers for the victims said its refusal to accept a share of the responsibility was "reprehensible".

Later Bupa relented, after being contacted by *The Inde-*

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

pendent, and agreed to offer Mrs Hill a free consultation that is due to take place today. The company also agreed to donate £2,000 to the patient support group set up by the community health council for victims of Mr Ledward.

The lack of regulation of the private health industry is to be investigated by the House of Commons health select committee, starting next month.

Mrs Hill, whose ordeal began 12 years ago, believed she had simply been unlucky until the full extent of Mr Ledward's incompetence emerged in November. More than 400 women have contacted the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Kent, since he was struck off the medical register in September and over 120 are considering legal action. About half the women, including Mrs Hill, were private patients.

She said: "If it wasn't for the NHS I wouldn't have anyone to help me. They have told me who to turn to and what to do. The private sector have not been to any of our meetings. The message is, 'If you have still got health insurance we can see you but if not, tough'."

She added: "I thought there

would be someone in the private sector to go to if you had problems but I learnt to my cost that there wasn't. My whole life has been ruined and I have had nobody to turn to."

Patricia Fearley, Mrs Hill's solicitor from Thomson, Snell and Passmore in Tunbridge Wells, which is handling most of the negligence cases, said: "It comes as a surprise to private patients that there is no one to complain to, because they think they are paying for the best in medical care."

A spokeswoman for Bupa said the firm had endeavoured to help Mr Ledward's patients by offering free consultations. She added: "Patients are stuck in a private trap and we don't like the situation. We don't employ consultants as the NHS does and they are not answerable to us. We appreciate it is difficult for the patients but it is difficult for us to help because their complaint is with the consultant, not the hospital."



Anita Hill, who is still suffering from the effects of seven operations by the gynaecologist Rodney Ledward

Mark Chilvers

DIARY OF A MEDICAL DISASTER

Operation one: Anita Hill's ordeal began in 1987 when she was referred to Rodney Ledward on her husband's private health insurance for treatment for heavy menstrual bleeding and stress incontinence. He told her that a hysterectomy was the answer.

Operation two: Three months later she was back in St Saviour's hospital complaining of pain in her side. Mr Ledward discovered an ovarian cyst that had been missed when he carried out the hysterectomy. She had an operation to remove it but the wound wouldn't heal. **Operations three and four:** She was taken back twice to repair a hernia that



Ledward: Struck off

had developed and correct a prolapsed bladder. The operations by Mr Ledward failed and she was referred to the NHS where the hernia repair was carried out successfully.

Operation five: Mr Ledward told her she would need hormone replacement therapy and advised her to have hormonal implants, which were replaced every three months.

Operation six: In 1993, pains developed in her right side and she was operated on by Mr Ledward to remove her remaining ovary. She felt nauseous and feverish when she came round from the anaesthetic, but was discharged - only to be sent back by her GP 24 hours later.

Operation seven: After she developed a swollen abdomen, Mr Ledward inserted a vaginal drain and said he would have to operate again. The drain

apparently ruptured her bowel and another surgeon was called in and performed an emergency colostomy.

Over the next seven months Mrs Hill underwent two further operations on the remainder of her bowel. The series of operations has left her with a weakened stomach wall and a mis-shapen abdomen. She suffers pain, is prone to vomiting and has been told she needs a further hernia repair and plastic surgery on her stomach to remove scar tissue. Her husband has lost his private health insurance and she took early retirement on grounds of ill health in 1991.

Candid major told to resign

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

MAJOR ERIC JOYCE, who publicly condemned the Army leadership as a clique of white, out-of-touch elitists, has been ordered to resign his commission or be sacked.

The outspoken Black Watch major hopes to stand as a Labour candidate in elections for the Scottish Parliament and critics privately regard his attack on the "officer class" as an exercise in self-promotion.

Major Joyce was told at a meeting with his commanding officer in Aldershot that he would automatically be discharged if he did not resign his commission within two months. Unbowed, he reiterated afterwards he intends to take his case for freedom of speech within the Army to the European Court of Human Rights.

Major Joyce breached Queen's Regulations by writing a pamphlet for the Labour-affiliated Fabian Society and has appeared before the Army Board, accused of speaking about the Army without its permission. In the pamphlet he alleged the Army was racist, snobbish and outdated.

Major Joyce rose through the ranks in the Black Watch and is on the staff of the Adjutant General's Corps, the Army's administrative branch. He said yesterday it was "terribly important" soldiers should be allowed to speak freely and he condemned the "obsession" of the Army top brass with an "officer class". He said Queen's Regulations were "a convention" and not legally enforceable.

Major Joyce is being dealt with under a procedure allowing unsuitable personnel to leave the Army.

The Ministry of Defence said attitudes in the Army were evolving. "We are a meritocracy. If you are not good enough, you don't get on. We're not interested in a person's background, class or school."

TEST

DRIVE

YOUR

WILL

POWER.



Be warned. There is so much to tempt you in a Jaguar showroom. And if you take the V8 XJ Series for a test-drive, the desire to keep on driving might just be irresistible.

Please call 0800 70 80 60 for information on Jaguar Cars and Jaguar Financial Services. Internet: www.jaguar.com

JAGUAR
DON'T DREAM IT. DRIVE IT.

Rise of healthy but troubled generation



Life was hard for these Glaswegian children in 1948, but modern children, although less likely to succumb to disease, face new problems



Bert Hardy/Bob Watkins

THE LIVES of children entering the new millennium have been transformed by 50 years of medical breakthroughs. But the improvements have been tempered by the persistence of the poverty trap and growth in juvenile crime, according to a new report.

Diarrhoea, bronchitis and tuberculosis are no longer the killers they were in 1949. Instead suicide is among the top 10 causes of death for young

By LOUISE JURY

people today. And although housing has improved since the days when only half the country had piped water, a cooker and a fixed bath, 70,000 children faced homelessness last year.

The snapshot survey of them and now has been drawn from official statistics by the Variety Club of Great Britain, which is marking half a century of

raising money to help children. Jan Walsh, the report's author, said: "In 50 years, Britain has seen vast changes. After the Second World War children had to live in a country still devastated by the conflict. Life was tough but straightforward when compared with the life children face today."

Breakthroughs in medicine have cut the child death statistics to hundreds rather than thousands. The expansion of

universities and cuts in classroom sizes have improved education. But the divorce rate is four times higher than it was 50 years ago and children of lone parents are among the most impoverished.

Fifty years ago, a baby boom was under way among couples who had put their lives on hold during the war years, the report notes. Despite an 18 per cent increase in the population since then, there were nearly as

many young people as there are today – more than 14 million.

The death rate was similar to today's with just over 1 per cent of the total population dying each year. "But children were far more likely to succumb to fatal diseases in 1949 than they are now," Ms Walsh said. Better nutrition, improved living conditions and the NHS immunisation programmes have helped to cut the figures. The report suggests that be-

cause death by disease is less likely, parents' fears that their child may be murdered have increased. Although homicide rates were slightly higher in 1949, the relative importance has risen. "When compared to the other dangers that exist for children in the late 1990s, the possibility that they might be murdered is stronger in comparison to other possible causes of death – because death by disease is now so unlikely."

When teenagers started work in 1949, they were paid relatively low wages. On average, a man aged under 21 earned 58 shillings and sixpence (£2.92) a week which, taking account of inflation, would be an annual wage of £2,872 today. Girls under 18 earned the equivalent of £2,460. The report said: "Even the lowest paid just-out-of-school workers today would get at least £5,000 a year."

But alongside the good news comes bad. Although fewer young people are found guilty of burglary, boys and girls are now committing significant numbers of violent crimes.

Some subjects are impossible to compare. Child abuse was barely recognised half a century ago.

Professor Sir Eric Stroud, whose childcare work at King's Hospital, Lewisham, south London, was supported by £2m of Variety Club money, said there was no doubt the health of children was better than it had been 50 years ago.

Philip Burley, head of the Variety Club, said many medical and health problems may have been solved, though other social and political problems remained. "They are much harder to solve and are really the challenge for the future."

Payout for sex victim of Masons

THE FREEMASONS have agreed to review the way they treat female employees after a woman clerk accepted an undisclosed sum in settlement of a claim of sexual harassment by a senior Mason.

The out-of-court settlement saved the Masons from a potentially embarrassing two-day industrial tribunal, due to begin yesterday, which would have shone an unwanted spotlight on the inner workings of the United Grand Lodge, the headquarters of English and Welsh Freemasonry.

Sheila Delaney reached a settlement with lawyers representing the lodge after claiming that she was subjected to a four-year campaign of sexual intimidation.

Ms Delaney had alleged that while she worked at the building in Great Queen Street, central London, comments were made about her nipples and breasts and she was subjected to unwanted physical contact by a senior colleague. Since Ms Delaney's complaints, the lodge has employed a human resources consultant to review its employment practices.

While not admitting liability, the lodge released a joint statement with McDonagh and Associates, the London solicitors representing Ms Delaney, saying: "The United Grand Lodge of England very much regrets the circumstances which have led to Ms Delaney's complaints and has determined to ensure that such a situation does not recur."

[The] United Grand Lodge has retained a professional human resources consultant to assist the organisation in reviewing its policies and practices and in implementing an education and training programme for its staff.

Before the statement was issued, Ms Delaney, 39, from Hampstead, north-west London, said of the lodge: "It is a male-dominated environment and there is a disrespect for women."

At the height of the campaign of alleged harassment, Ms Delaney submitted an article to the magazine *Freemasonry Today*, describing the conditions she had to work under.

The article was not published but prompted an internal investigation that led to a senior

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mason being called before a disciplinary hearing last September.

The Mason admitted some of the charges against him and was found guilty of gross misconduct. But the Masons' grand secretary, Jim Daniel, decided the offences did not warrant dismissal and, despite the protests of Ms Delaney, allowed him to return to his previous post the same month.

Ms Delaney told *The Independent* she could not sleep the night before the senior Mason returned to work. "I felt as if I had to go in and show willing but I could not cope. I left at one o'clock and cried all the way home. People on the Tube thought I was mentally ill," she said.

On the advice of a doctor she took sick leave and has not been back to work for four months. She alleged that her treatment caused her to lose ten pounds in weight as she suffered humiliation, demoralisation and lack of confidence.

Mr Daniel said after the settlement: "There was an investigation. I had a panel and I had independent people on that panel with expert advice and they upheld some of the allegations. The complainant was not happy with some of the remedies put forward by the panel but has now agreed to settle and the matter is now closed."

In support of her case, Ms Delaney was due to call as a witness a second female employee, Donna Hanson, who reached an out-of-court settlement with the Masons after bringing her own action for sexual discrimination.

Freemasonry, which is known to members as "The Craft", has gone to great lengths in recent years to dispel its reputation for secrecy. It maintains that it is simply a private organisation, no more secret than any other that chooses not to disclose details of its membership.

The United Grand Lodge, which traces its origins back to 1717, oversees the administration of more than 7,800 lodges in England and Wales, with a collective membership of some 350,000.

Dixons

ORANGE
JUST TALK PREPAYFROM
ONLY

£69.99

HALF
PRICE*
ACCESSORIES

1 WEEK ONLY

Offer includes all mobile
cases, in-car charger and
accessory packs.
*While stocks last.
Ask for details.FREE
CALL
VOUCHER
WHEN YOU BUY 12Pick up a leaflet
in-store now
and start
collecting
your
vouchers.*The free voucher will be equivalent to the
lowest denomination voucher bought.

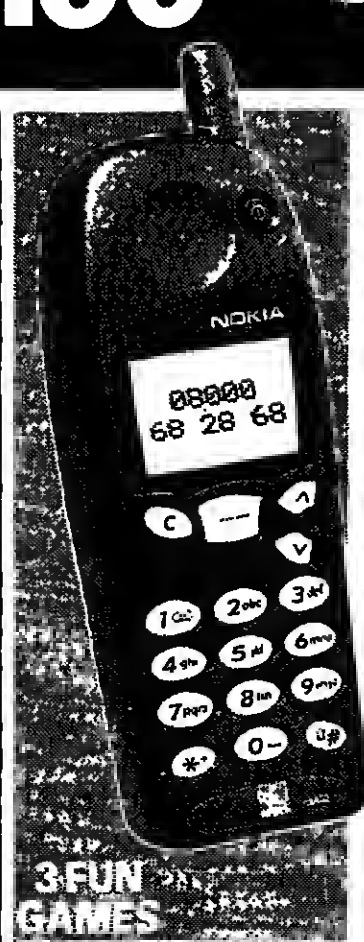
MOTOROLA MR201
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 250 minutes talktime/75 hours
standby time.
• 90 name and number memory.
• Caller identification.
• Can operate
using standard
AAA batteries
for limited
talktime.
Was £79.99

£69.99



MOTOROLA C520
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 120 minutes talktime/48 hours
standby time.
• SMS text and data compatible.
• 11 different
ringing tones.

£79.99



NOKIA NK402
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 180 minutes talktime/120 hours
standby time.
• 90 name and number memory.
PLUS
Play Snake,
Logic and
Memory games
on screen.

£179.99

justtalk™
BENEFITS OF PREPAY

CONTROL WHAT YOU SPEND WITH CALL VOUCHERS

NO MONTHLY BILLS

NO CONTRACT

NO CREDIT CHECK

NO CONNECTION FEE



**PRICE —
WE CAN'T BE BEATEN***
Every week we compare prices in the
national press so you KNOW you can't buy
better. If you can, we guarantee to refund
the difference.

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

*Dixons Price Check - If you find the same offer cheaper at a local store and notify us within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference. The product must be new, complete and suitable for immediate delivery. Mail order excluded.

Want **A** mortgage
that saves you £27,000
and puts you in control?

If you're looking for a mortgage that you can adopt to meet your needs, here's an attractive solution.

- Interest calculated daily, which means you can pay less interest and pay the loan off sooner.
- Save even more time and money with our flexible repayment options by increasing your monthly repayments or making a lump sum payment.
- Give yourself a break from your payments when you need it, or use your mortgage to buy something you have always wanted, like a car (if you've paid more than the minimum repayments).
- Variable interest rate of just 6.70% (6.9% APR typical).

Phone A Mortgage saves you time and money. For example, you could save £27,332.49 interest and repay 9 years and 10 months early by simply increasing your monthly repayments each year by 2.0% on a £60,000 mortgage. This is compared to our 25 year standard repayment mortgage for the same amount. Of course, it's up to you, you can control your mortgage to suit you.

So, if you want all the benefits of a flexible mortgage, call now. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.00pm, and at weekends from 9.00am to 6.00pm.

PHONE A MORTGAGE
Call now 0800 783 85 83

Calls may be monitored or recorded for training purposes. Rates correct as at 12 January 1999. Written quotations are available on request. Mortgages are subject to status. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Security in the form of a legal mortgage over the property and a life insurance policy is required. All loans require a professional valuation. Minimum income must be £10,000. We offer 95% loans for first time buyers and 90% for existing property owners, based on the lower of the purchase price or valuation. For loans of 90% or above Mortgage Guarantee Insurance is required. Interest rates may vary which could affect repayments. Typical example: A Flexible Payment Mortgage of £60,000 over 15 years and 2 months at an interest rate of 6.70% (APR 6.9%) with monthly repayments of £468.99. Total interest paid £27,332.49. Total amount repaid £87,332.49. Repayments are increased by 2.0% each year resulting in 12 payments each of £477.75, 12 payments each of £487.80, 12 payments each of £497.85, 12 payments each of £507.90, 12 payments each of £517.95, 12 payments each of £527.99, 12 payments each of £537.99, 12 payments each of £547.99, 12 payments each of £557.99, 12 payments each of £567.99, 12 payments each of £577.99, 12 payments each of £587.99, 12 payments each of £597.99, 12 payments each of £607.99, 12 payments each of £617.99, 12 payments each of £627.99, 12 payments each of £637.99, 12 payments each of £647.99, 12 payments each of £657.99, 12 payments each of £667.99, 12 payments each of £677.99, 12 payments each of £687.99, 12 payments each of £697.99, 12 payments each of £707.99, 12 payments each of £717.99, 12 payments each of £727.99, 12 payments each of £737.99, 12 payments each of £747.99, 12 payments each of £757.99, 12 payments each of £767.99, 12 payments each of £777.99, 12 payments each of £787.99, 12 payments each of £797.99, 12 payments each of £807.99, 12 payments each of £817.99, 12 payments each of £827.99, 12 payments each of £837.99, 12 payments each of £847.99, 12 payments each of £857.99, 12 payments each of £867.99, 12 payments each of £877.99, 12 payments each of £887.99, 12 payments each of £897.99, 12 payments each of £907.99, 12 payments each of £917.99, 12 payments each of £927.99, 12 payments each of £937.99, 12 payments each of £947.99, 12 payments each of £957.99, 12 payments each of £967.99, 12 payments each of £977.99, 12 payments each of £987.99, 12 payments each of £997.99, 12 payments each of £1,007.99, 12 payments each of £1,017.99, 12 payments each of £1,027.99, 12 payments each of £1,037.99, 12 payments each of £1,047.99, 12 payments each of £1,057.99, 12 payments each of £1,067.99, 12 payments each of £1,077.99, 12 payments each of £1,087.99, 12 payments each of £1,097.99, 12 payments each of £1,107.99, 12 payments each of £1,117.99, 12 payments each of £1,127.99, 12 payments each of £1,137.99, 12 payments each of £1,147.99, 12 payments each of £1,157.99, 12 payments each of £1,167.99, 12 payments each of £1,177.99, 12 payments each of £1,187.99, 12 payments each of £1,197.99, 12 payments each of £1,207.99, 12 payments each of £1,217.99, 12 payments each of £1,227.99, 12 payments each of £1,237.99, 12 payments each of £1,247.99, 12 payments each of £1,257.99, 12 payments each of £1,267.99, 12 payments each of £1,277.99, 12 payments each of £1,287.99, 12 payments each of £1,297.99, 12 payments each of £1,307.99, 12 payments each of £1,317.99, 12 payments each of £1,327.99, 12 payments each of £1,337.99, 12 payments each of £1,347.99, 12 payments each of £1,357.99, 12 payments each of £1,367.99, 12 payments each of £1,377.99, 12 payments each of £1,387.99, 12 payments each of £1,397.99, 12 payments each of £1,407.99, 12 payments each of £1,417.99, 12 payments each of £1,427.99, 12 payments each of £1,437.99, 12 payments each of £1,447.99, 12 payments each of £1,457.99, 12 payments each of £1,467.99, 12 payments each of £1,477.99, 12 payments each of £1,487.99, 12 payments each of £1,497.99, 12 payments each of £1,507.99, 12 payments each of £1,517.99, 12 payments each of £1,527.99, 12 payments each of £1,537.99, 12 payments each of £1,547.99, 12 payments each of £1,557.99, 12 payments each of £1,567.99, 12 payments each of £1,577.99, 12 payments each of £1,587.99, 12 payments each of £1,597.99, 12 payments each of £1,607.99, 12 payments each of £1,617.99, 12 payments each of £1,627.99, 12 payments each of £1,637.99, 12 payments each of £1,647.99, 12 payments each of £1,657.99, 12 payments each of £1,667.99, 12 payments each of £1,677.99, 12 payments each of £1,687.99, 12 payments each of £1,697.99, 12 payments each of £1,707.99, 12 payments each of £1,717.99, 12 payments each of £1,727.99, 12 payments each of £1,737.99, 12 payments each of £1,747.99, 12 payments each of £1,757.99, 12 payments each of £1,767.99, 12 payments each of £1,777.99, 12 payments each of £1,787.99, 12 payments each of £1,797.99, 12 payments each of £1,807.99, 12 payments each of £1,817.99, 12 payments each of £1,827.99, 12 payments each of £1,837.99, 12 payments each of £1,847.99, 12 payments each of £1,857.99, 12 payments each of £1,867.99, 12 payments each of £1,877.99, 12 payments each of £1,887.99, 12 payments each of £1,897.99, 12 payments each of £1,907.99, 12 payments each of £1,917.99, 12 payments each of £1,927.99, 12 payments each of £1,937.99, 12 payments each of £1,947.99, 12 payments each of £1,957.99, 12 payments each of £1,967.99, 12 payments each of £1,977.99, 12 payments each of £1,987.99, 12 payments each of £1,997.99, 12 payments each of £2,007.99, 12 payments each of £2,017.99, 12 payments each of £2,027.99, 12 payments each of £2,037.99, 12 payments each of £2,047.99, 12 payments each of £2,057.99, 12 payments each of £2,067.99, 12 payments each of £2,077.99, 12 payments each of £2,087.99, 12 payments each of £2,097.99, 12 payments each of £2,107.99, 12 payments each of £2,117.99, 12 payments each of £2,127.99, 12 payments each of £2,137.99, 12 payments each of £2,147.99, 12 payments each of £2,157.99, 12 payments each of £2,167.99, 12 payments each of £2,177.99, 12 payments each of £2,187.99, 12 payments each of £2,197.99, 12 payments each of £2,207.99, 12 payments each of £2,217.99, 12 payments each of £2,227.99, 12 payments each of £2,237.99, 12 payments each of £2,247.99, 12 payments each of £2,257.99, 12 payments each of £2,267.99, 12 payments each of £2,277.99, 12 payments each of £2,287.99, 12 payments each of £2,297.99, 12 payments each of £2,307.99, 12 payments each of £2,317.99, 12 payments each of £2,327.99, 12 payments each of £2,337.99, 12 payments each of £2,347.99, 12 payments each of £2,357.99, 12 payments each of £2,367.99, 12 payments each of £2,377.99, 12 payments each of £2,387.99, 12 payments each of £2,397.99, 12 payments each of £2,407.99, 12 payments each of £2,417.99, 12 payments each of £2,427.99, 12 payments each of £2,437.99, 12 payments each of £2,447.99, 12 payments each of £2,457.99, 12 payments each of £2,467.99, 12 payments each of £2,477.99, 12 payments each of £2,487.99, 12 payments each of £2,497.99, 12 payments each of £2,507.99, 12 payments each of £2,517.99, 12 payments each of £2,527.99, 12 payments each of £2,537.99, 12 payments each of £2,547.99, 12 payments each of £2,557.99, 12 payments each of £2,567.99, 12 payments each of £2,577.99, 12 payments each of £2,587.99, 12 payments each of £2,597.99, 12 payments each of £2,607.99, 12 payments each of £2,617.99, 12 payments each of £2,627.99, 12 payments each of £2,637.99, 12 payments each of £2,647.99, 12 payments each of £2,657.99, 12 payments each of £2,667.99, 12 payments each of £2,677.99, 12 payments each of £2,687.99, 12 payments each of £2,697.99, 12 payments each of £2,707.99, 12 payments each of £2,717.99, 12 payments each of £2,727.99, 12 payments each of £2,737.99, 12 payments each of £2,747.99, 12 payments each of £2,757.99, 12 payments each of £2,767.99, 12 payments each of £2,777.99, 12 payments each of £2,787.99, 12 payments each of £2,797.99, 12 payments each of £2,807.99, 12 payments each of £2,817.99, 12 payments each of £2,827.99, 12 payments each of £2,837.99, 12 payments each of £2,847.99, 12 payments each of £2,857.99, 12 payments each of £2,867.99, 12 payments each of £2,877.99, 12 payments each of £2,887.99, 12 payments each of £2,897.99, 12 payments each of £2,907.99, 12 payments each of £2,917.99, 12 payments each of £2,927.99, 12 payments each of £2,937.99, 12 payments each of £2,947.99, 12 payments each of £2,957.99, 12 payments each of £2,967.99, 12 payments each of £2,977.99, 12 payments each of £2,987.99, 12 payments each of £2,997.99, 12 payments each of £3,007.99, 12 payments each of £3,017.99, 12 payments each of £3,027.99, 12 payments each of £3,037.99, 12 payments each of £3,047.99, 12 payments each of £3,057.99, 12 payments each of £3,067.99, 12 payments each of £3,077.99, 12 payments each of £3,087.99, 12 payments each of £3,097.99, 12 payments each of £3,107.99, 12 payments each of £3,117.99, 12 payments each of £3,127.99, 12 payments each of £3,137.99, 12 payments each of £3,147.99, 12 payments each of £3,157.99, 12 payments each of £3,167.99, 12 payments each of £3,177.99, 12 payments each of £3,187.99, 12 payments each of £3,197.99, 12 payments each of £3,207.99, 12 payments each of £3,217.99, 12 payments each of £3,227.99, 12 payments each of £3,237.99, 12 payments each of £3,247.99, 12 payments each of £3,257.99, 12 payments each of £3,267.99, 12 payments each of £3,277.99, 12 payments each of £3,287.99, 12 payments each of £3,297.99, 12 payments each of £3,307.99, 12 payments each of £3,317.99, 12 payments each of £3,327.99, 12 payments each of £3,337.99, 12 payments each of £3,347.99, 12 payments each of £3,357.99, 12 payments each of £3,367.99, 12 payments each of £3,377.99, 12 payments each of £3,387.99, 12 payments each of £3,397.99, 12 payments each of £3,407.99, 12 payments each of £3,417.99, 12 payments each of £3,427.99, 12 payments each of £3,437.99, 12 payments each of £3,447.99, 12 payments each of £3,457.99, 12 payments each of £3,467.99, 12 payments each of £3,477.99, 12 payments each of £3,487.99, 12 payments each of £3,497.99, 12 payments each of £3,507.99, 12 payments each of £3,517.99, 12 payments each of £3,527.99, 12 payments each of £3,537.99, 12 payments each of £3,547.99, 12 payments each of £3,557.99, 12 payments each of £3,567.99, 12 payments each of £3,577.99, 12 payments each of £3,587.99, 12 payments each of £3,597.99, 12 payments each of £3,607.99, 12 payments each of £3,617.99, 12 payments each of £3,627.99, 12 payments each of £3,637.99, 12 payments each of £3,647.99, 12 payments each of £3,657.99, 12 payments each of £3,667.99, 12 payments each of £3,677.99, 12 payments each of £3,687.99, 12 payments each of £3,697.99, 12 payments each of £3,707.99, 12 payments each of £3,717.99, 12 payments each of £3,727.99, 12 payments each of £3,737.99, 12 payments each of £3,747.99, 12 payments each of £3,757.99, 12 payments each of £3,767.99, 12 payments each of £3,777.99, 12 payments each of £3,787.99, 12 payments each of £3,797.99, 12 payments each of £3,807.99, 12 payments each of £3,817.99, 12 payments each of £3,827.99, 12 payments each of £3,837.99, 12 payments each of £3,847.99, 12 payments each of £3,857.99, 12 payments each of £3,867.99, 12 payments each of £3,877.99, 12 payments each of £3,887.99, 12 payments each of £3,897.99, 12 payments each of £3,907.99, 12 payments each of £3,917.99, 12 payments each of £3,927.99, 12 payments each of £3,937.99, 12 payments each of £3,947.99, 12 payments each of £3,957.99, 12 payments each of £3,967.99, 12 payments each of £3,977.99, 12 payments each of £3,987.99, 12 payments each of £3,997.99, 12 payments each of £4,007.99, 12 payments each of £4,017.99, 12 payments each of £4,027.99, 12 payments each of £4,037.99, 12 payments each of £4,047.99, 12 payments each of £4,057.99, 12 payments each of £4,067.99, 12 payments each of £4,077.99, 12 payments each of £4,087.99, 12 payments each of £4,097.99, 12 payments each of £4,107.99, 12 payments each of £4,117.99, 12 payments each of £4,127.99, 12 payments each of £4,137.99, 12 payments each of £4,147.99, 12 payments each of £4,157.99, 12 payments each of £4,167.99, 12 payments each of £4,177.99, 12 payments each of £4,187.99, 12 payments each of £4,197.99, 12 payments each of £4,207.99, 12 payments each of £4,217.99, 12 payments each of £4,227.99, 12 payments each of £4,237.99, 12 payments each of £4,247.99, 12 payments each of £4,257.99, 12 payments each of £4,267.99, 12 payments each of £4,277.99, 12 payments each of £4,287.99, 12 payments each of £4,297.99, 12 payments each of £4,307.99, 12 payments each of £4,317.99, 12 payments each of £4,327.99, 12 payments each of £4,337.99, 12 payments each of £4,347.99, 12 payments each of £4,357.99, 12 payments each of £4,367.99, 12 payments each of £4,377.99, 12 payments each of £4,387.99, 12 payments each of £4,397.99, 12 payments each of £4,407.99, 12 payments each of £4,417.99, 12 payments each of £4,427.99, 12 payments each of £4,437.99, 12 payments each of £4,447.99, 12 payments each of £4,457.99, 12 payments each of £4,467.99, 12 payments each of £4,477.99, 12 payments each of £4,487.99, 12 payments each of £4,497.99, 12 payments each of £4,507.99, 12 payments each of £4,517.99, 12 payments each of £4,527.99, 12 payments each of £4,537.99, 12 payments each of £4,547.99, 12 payments each of £4,557.99, 12 payments each of £4,567.99, 12 payments each of £4,577.99, 12 payments each of £4,587.99, 12 payments each of £4,597.99, 12 payments each of £4,607.99, 12 payments each of £4,617.99, 12 payments each of £4,627.99, 12 payments each of £4,637.99, 12 payments each of £4,647.99, 12 payments each of £4,657.99, 12 payments each of £4,667.99, 12 payments each of £4,677.99, 12

ut
ex
n of
ons

age
27,000
control?

GTGAGE
65 53

Yorkshire Sun

MEPs back away from 'nuclear option'

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
AND KATHERINE BUTLER
in Strasbourg

A BLOODIED European Commission looks set to cling on to power today after a dramatic eleventh hour threat to quit by its President Jacques Santer paid off by calling the bluff of the European Parliament.

MEPs were last night poised to draw back from a threat to vote the Commission out of office after a day of turmoil in which Mr Santer warned he would resign if they voted to sack Edith Cresson, the former French Socialist Prime Minister. The Brussels executive could still find itself out of power in the unlikely event of a majority calling for the resignation of the scandal-tainted Mrs Cresson in a vote today.

Sacking the Commission today would be an unprecedented act which would plunge the European Union into crisis. It would halt key reforms to the common agricultural policy and the 1999 annual budget needed to prepare the Union for enlargement.

Strasbourg was engulfed by intrigue yesterday as the Commission's future hung in the balance. A desperate scramble was underway in the parliament's committee rooms while Commission supporters - mostly Socialist MEPs - sought to fight off a motion of censure, the so-called "nuclear option" which would vote the Commission out of office, and another motion singling out individual Commissioners for blame.

Mr Santer moved to ensure his own survival in the small hours of yesterday morning when he issued a challenge to the biggest grouping, the 202 MEPs of the centre-right Christian Democrat group. The tactic prompted up to 80 conservatives to pull back from the brink when he made it clear that a resolution targeting Mrs Cresson, the Commissioner for education, would prompt him to resign, probably bringing the entire Commission body with him.

The Christian Democrats backed off and instead of "naming and shaming" Mrs Cresson and Manuel Marin, a Spanish Vice-President of the Commission, were planning a resolution severely criticising EU financial mismanagement.



Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, with Edith Cresson, the French Commissioner, at the beginning of a meeting of the 20-strong team of Commissioners in Strasbourg yesterday. Reuters

All week MEPs had been talking up the "nuclear option" of sacking the full Commission body over a burgeoning fraud and nepotism scandal which dates from 1995.

Over dinner in the European Parliament's plush riverside restaurant late on Tuesday evening, about 20 centre-right Euro MPs had gathered in the cavernous red-carpeted room. They were questioning Mr Santer about the crisis when he dropped the bombshell by threatening to plunge the EU into a constitutional crisis by resigning himself if MEPs tried to censure any members of his team.

A row over the EU 1996 budget was suddenly spinning out of control and threatening meltdown - much as Monica Lewinsky's allegations against

President Bill Clinton came seemingly from nowhere to threaten his presidency.

Yesterday, in a nondescript meeting room beside the Parliament's hemicycle, Tory MEPs met with Sir Leon Brittan, another Vice-President of the European Commission, seeking to avert a showdown. But when Sir Leon sought to mollify the MEPs by offering a new committee to investigate the fraud allegations, one MEP responded: "What's the point of a group of wise men when we want blood?"

Most of the details of fraud and irregularities date back several years, but two sitting Commissioners have been singled out for attack.

Mrs Cresson has come in for acute criticism over alleged poor administration of a youth

training programme and for "favouritism" in awarding of contracts.

Mr Marin faces questions about the administration of the multi-billion pound humanitarian aid budget, "Echo", which he controlled until 1995, and the "Med" programme, designed to help Mediterranean countries.

When, in December, the Parliament's budget control committee refused to sign off a set of accounts relating to 1996, the Socialists proposed today's censure motion, which was intended to fail, as a means of giving the Commission a vote of confidence.

That initiative, made by Pauline Green, leader of the Socialists (the largest group in the Parliament), backfired badly. With a two-thirds ma-

jority needed to expel the Commission, adoption of the censure motion seemed impossible. But last week Commission bureaucrats in Brussels enraged MEPs by suspending a whistle-blowing official, Paul van Buitenen.

The ensuing row provoked the power struggle between the Parliament and the unelected college of 20 Commissioners.

As a welter of further revelations rocked the Commission, the Socialist position proved more and more difficult to sustain. Not only had Mr Van Buitenen's predicament raised the temperature, but also Mrs Cresson showed no signs of bowing to a growing clamour for her departure.

With her MEPs concerned that they were appearing to be

soft on fraud, Mrs Green changed course and demanded concessions from the Commission. At the same time, she called for Mr Santer to quit if any within his college were singled out.

There seems little doubt that Mr Santer was a co-conspirator in this move to raise the stakes, because there is ample evidence of dialogue between the two. A late-night meeting on Tuesday in the Hilton Hotel was captured on film by a German TV crew.

MEPs' anger at Mrs Cresson remains undiminished. Last week she held two dinners for journalists in her elegant Brussels apartment, in which she railed against her accusers. The German media was she, charged, chiefly to blame for creating a furore to fuel the new

Euro-sceptic mood of a nation which feels it is paying too much to Brussels. At one event she even hinted that dirty tricks against her were being investigated by the security services.

Her mood towards the Parliament was defiant. During Monday's debate she defended herself, from a seated position, without much hint of apology. By contrast, her colleague Mr Marin stood, and made an emotional and effective defence of his honesty.

When the two appeared at a meeting of the Liberals, the third largest group in the Parliament, the pattern was repeated: Mr Marin contrite but admitting to no wrong; Mrs Cresson "vigorous".

She was arguing from a position of strength. The Parliament has no right to censure

individuals, and constitutionally Mr Santer cannot sack them either. But even this is an anomaly. Mr Santer told one group of MEPs that any minister in his native Luxembourg who stood accused of similar charges would have resigned.

But the mood among the 20-strong Commission was also defiant. Appointed by national governments, the Commissioners include experienced and streetwise politicians such as Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, and Sir Leon, both of whom wanted to stand firm. Several are due to leave their posts in the summer; others just couldn't stomach the idea of caving in. At their meeting on Tuesday, one Commissioner said he would "rather be sacked than crawl" to the Parliament.

DIARY OF A SHOWDOWN

1995: Fraud in the EU is highlighted by a Tory MEP, Edward McMillan Scott (right). Two officials face criminal charges for allegedly defrauding European Year of Tourism of up to £3m. The case continues.

November 1995: European Court of Auditors refuses to certify EU's annual accounts after discovering that almost £3bn not properly accounted for.

Late 1996: European Parliament, concerned by the Commission's slow response on tourism fraud, threatens to freeze 10 per cent of Commissioners' salaries. Commission sets up taskforce.

November 1996: Court of Auditors once more refuses to certify EU's accounts amid signs of lax controls over around £2.5bn.

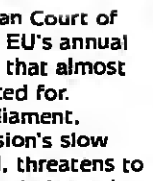
Early 1997: Finnish Commissioner Erkki Liikanen (above) announces plan to root out nepotism in Commission and improve financial controls.

March 1998: Parliament holds up EU budget again, pending promised concessions from Commission.

October 1998: Allegations in French press about cronyism in education and training department of French Socialist Commissioner Edith Cresson (right). She threatens lawsuits. More allegations about loss of £1.7m in



humanitarian aid money because of irregularities going back to early 1980s when the Spanish Commissioner, Manuel Marin, was in charge of programme. October 1998: Santer promises independent fraud office to replace Uclaf, Commission's fraud unit, in bid to fend off German MEPs' threats to table motion of censure.



December 1998: Parliament refuses to discharge budget after Commission issues a "back us or sack us" threat. Pauline Green (right), leader of the Socialist group, tables a censure motion she knows will fail - in effect a tactic to bring about a vote of confidence in the European Commission.



January 1998: News of suspension of Commission whistleblower Paul van Buitenen (below right) reaches Parliament. He has already sent a 34-page dossier of allegations to Green group in Parliament. Support for sacking the entire Commission builds dramatically among angry MEPs across political spectrum.



His \$300,000 job suddenly at risk. Jacques Santer promises "zero tolerance" in an eight-point clean-up plan, including unfettered access to documents by a select committee of Parliament and an end to nepotism in appointments.



Santer, a burgomeister airbrushed into history

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

FOUR YEARS ago, when he succeeded Jacques Delors, *The Independent* wrote that Jacques Santer, the unknown, largely unremarkable prime minister of Luxembourg, had been "airbrushed into history" when he was chosen to head the European Commission. Yesterday, he came within a whisker of being airbrushed out of it.

The man who occupies the most important job in the European Union was nearly removed from it. And apart from a face suddenly removed from the ceremonial photographs, scarcely a soul would have noticed.

Jacques Santer has left no enduring mark on the governance of Europe. True, he has been present at great events - the Treaty of Amsterdam, the start of enlargement to the east, above all the launch of the single currency - but more as Rosenzweig or Guldenshtern than Hamlet. No "plan Santer", no "Santer initiative", will trouble future students of the new Europe. He will be remembered only as the first Commission president to be pushed to the brink of resignation by the European Parliament.

Even the sins of fraud and nepotism for which his Commission is being held to account are not his own. The worst Mr Santer can be accused of is not running a tight ship. In reality, his threatened departure was a measure of the imperfections of the European constitution, which gives the Strasbourg parliament the stark choice of sacking either the entire Commission or none of it. For a man thrust into a job he did not seek, it would have been a slightly unfair end.

Mr Santer was a lawyer and civil servant before entering politics and becoming an MEP party leader and eventually prime minister in 1989. However the image that most lingers is that of a spokesman of the city of Luxembourg, a post he held for three years in the late 1970s. Silver-haired, ruddy-



The EC building in Brussels yesterday, where the fraud scandal is preoccupying the media. EPA

cheeked and with a suitable touch of embonpoint, he is the burgomeister made flesh. Affordable and easy going, Mr Santer is a firm believer that few of life's problems cannot be solved over a decent lunch.

After the intense and visionary Jacques who preceded him, this Jacques was probably what Europe wanted: an anti-Delors, a man from a small country who depended on his patrons (first and foremost Chancellor Helmut Kohl, someone who would not rock the boat. And until this week, he has not.

To give Mr Santer his due, in a quiet fashion - and contrary to appearances created by the current kerfuffle - he has begun to reform the Brussels bureaucracy, a matter his predecessor would not stoop to attend to. His problem is that, unlike his predecessor, he is not feared by those around him. Now that Mr Delors has gone, old baronies are reappearing.

The commissioners who count are those such as Leon Brittan, Mario Monti, Karel Van Miert, even that indefatigable headline-grabber, Emma Bonino. Mr Santer is the front-man, long on bonhomie but short on influence.

But if so, that is also a reflection of the times. All the prestige of Mr Delors could not mask the shift of EU power away from Brussels to national capitals, which began in earnest with the negotiation of the Maastricht treaty. The member states wanted a weak president in Brussels, and they chose one.

Curiously, Mr Santer largely owes his appointment to the British, courtesy of John Major's veto of the favourite to succeed Mr Delors, the then Belgian prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene. By a process of elimination, they arrived at Mr Santer, who had the further advantage for the government in

London of being, it was assumed, a less than ardent believer in the F-word.

As not infrequently in matters European, the British got it wrong. To call a Luxembourg a federalist is almost a tautology. How could it be otherwise in a country the size of Oxfordshire, wedged between France, Germany and Belgium, whose history has largely been written by the local Letzeburgesch dialect. Mr Santer speaks French and German, as well as the endearingly accented English of a continental villain from Gilbert and Sullivan. By instinct, a Luxembourg thinks European. The British had secured their low-profile president - but not a president who would slow the EU's self-propelling momentum towards greater integration.

For a while, Mr Santer's sheer blandness seemed as if it might earn him a second five-year term. This crisis has obviously dashed those hopes; but even before the corruption charges engulfed his Commission, the political winds in Europe had moved against him. In 1994 he had the crucial backing of conservative governments in London and Bonn. Today the centre-left rules in Germany and Britain - and almost everywhere else for that matter; the new presidential photo-fest suggests centre-left and a large EU country. Centre-right Luxemburgers need not apply.

And so to the present crisis, which has shown Mr Santer at his worst. Even the most genial burgomeister, especially one who is not directly elected to the job, is apt to become a mite arrogant after a while.

In truth, it would be amazing if there was no fraud in a total EU budget of £60bn. What sticks in the craw is the burgomeister's unbecoming feeling that the very suggestion something is amiss in the town hall is an impertinence, an indignity to which his institution should not be subjected. But it has been, and both the EU and Jacques Santer are probably the better for it.

You really can be confident in FRENCH, SPANISH GERMAN or ITALIAN in 3½ weeks.

You get a much warmer response when you travel and command more respect in business, if you speak another language. It also helps greatly with school progress.

But many people are put off learning a language because they fear it takes too long, will be too difficult or blurry, will be boring.

Why? Because traditional methods have often put too much emphasis on pure reading and writing. The common complaint is "I can read a bit of French - but I can't speak it."

Accelerated Learning is a very different method, based on Nobel Prize winning research. You learn the way you learned English - through a unique combination of seeing, hearing and doing.

ALL THE WAYS TO LEARN

Physical Learning. By imitating the actions on a unique video and repeating the phrases you see on super titles, you learn key vocabulary quickly and easily. Watching and imitating is how you started to speak as a child.

Auditory Learning. You listen to a series of realistic and intriguing radio plays on 12 cassettes. You become absorbed in the story and motivated to hear what's next. The plays cover all the important situations you'll meet and you absorb vocabulary easily in a natural way.

There are parts you can practise in the car and even a part where the story is repeated to music, a technique that involves the left brain (words & logic) and the right brain (music and creativity). The words become as easy to remember as a song.

Visual Learning. In your course the foreign language has the English text immediately alongside. It helps you absorb the words naturally and easily. Then key phrases are vividly and memorably illustrated through "Memory Maps". When you recall the images, you recall the words.



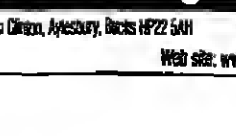
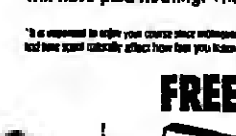
Total involvement. There are dozens of games and activities to get you using your new language in natural and enjoyable ways. One, the Name Game, unlocks the meaning of thousands of words from the very first day.

It's the unique multi-media combination that engages your whole brain and gets you speaking confidently in such a short time. And fluent communication gives you a wonderful sense of achievement.

PROVE IT TO YOURSELF



We invite you to order with this reassurance. We will not process your cheque or credit card for at least 15 days after we dispatch your course. If you are not completely satisfied that this is the fastest and most enjoyable way to learn a language, simply return the programme and you will have paid nothing. That's how sure we are.



THE METHOD WORKS

Education News says, "It's radically different - there are so many features about it that recommend it to the learner." The Bankers Institute of New Zealand says, "Accelerated Learning is the new competitive weapon."

Wessex says, "It's revolutionary." The Daily Mail reported that "Children using Accelerated Learning are racing ahead." "The results are spectacular."

BBC and ITV news recently reported on a school where ten times more students using Accelerated Learning Courses got top marks compared with those using conventional courses.

Australian TV news reported "Astonishing fluency." They did two years work in three months.

Hundreds of companies for whom proficiency is vital use Accelerated Learning for language and general training - such as Air UK, Boeing, Boots, Esso, IBM, Kodak, ICI, Rover, Glaxo, Sony, Tesco, Nestle, Lloyds Bank etc.

FLUENCY COMES QUICKLY

Can you really speak well in 3½ weeks? Yes, the record so far was 31 hours of study to pass the Institute of Linguists Preliminary Certificate. Think what you could achieve in a month! Order today on FREEPHONE (0800) 50 20 20 (24 hours) or use the coupon below.

French ☐ Spanish ☐ German ☐ Italian ☐

I enclose my preferred method of payment [which will be processed only after I decide to keep my course]
☐ One full payment of £299 (plus £5.50 Parcel force Delivery)
Total £104.50 OR ☐ An initial deposit of £38.50 followed by 3 consecutive monthly payments of £24 each (Total £110.50)
Credit Cards Only.

I enclose my cheque for £ or debit my Visa/Access card
CARD No: _____ Expiry date: _____
Mr/Ms/Ms _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

Signature _____
SEND TO: ACCELERATED LEARNING SYSTEMS
FREEPOST, AYLESBURY, BUCKS. HP22 4BR

Small print text regarding terms and conditions.

The accelerated learning method

ACCELERATED LEARNING SYSTEMS LTD, 30 Aylesbury Rd, Aston Clough, Aston Clough, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5AH
Telephone Enquiries (01295) 531177
e-mail: cal@accelerated-learning.co.uk
Web site: www.accelerated-learning.co.uk

Release of soldiers lifts Kosovo gloom

FOR THE TIME being, at least, Kosovo has edged itself back from the brink of all-out war, as ethnic Albanian fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army yesterday freed the eight Yugoslav soldiers they had held for five days.

The men, apparently in good condition, were handed back at the village of Stari Trg, close to where they had been held since being captured last Friday. The release followed intense mediation by members of the international team who monitor the ceasefire. Just a few kilometres away waited dozens of tanks of the Yugoslav army, ready to crush this latest insurgency by force had the mediation efforts failed.

It seemed likely, but was not immediately confirmed, that in return for the release the Yugoslav authorities have agreed to set free at least nine KLA members they were hold-

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

ing prisoner. Although the Serbian side said that the release was "unconditional," William Walker, the head of the monitors, refused to give details of what he termed a "fair and balanced agreement". This implies that the KLA prisoners could be freed later as part of an amnesty, allowing Belgrade to save face and claim victory for the time being.

The peaceful resolution now gives a small - and perhaps final - breathing space for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to convert the fragile ceasefire, brokered last October by the US troubleshooter Richard Holbrooke, into a more solid truce, before spring and the advent of the Balkans' traditional combat season.

The omens, however, are not good. All hope of a lasting

Kosovo settlement depends on the start of serious political talks between President Slobodan Milosevic's government in Belgrade and the ethnic Albanians, who account for 90 per cent of the population of the Serbian province.

The one plan currently on the table has been devised by Christopher Hill, the US special envoy to the Balkans. It calls for a restoration of the province's autonomy, but not its independence and puts off for three more years a final decision on Kosovo's status.

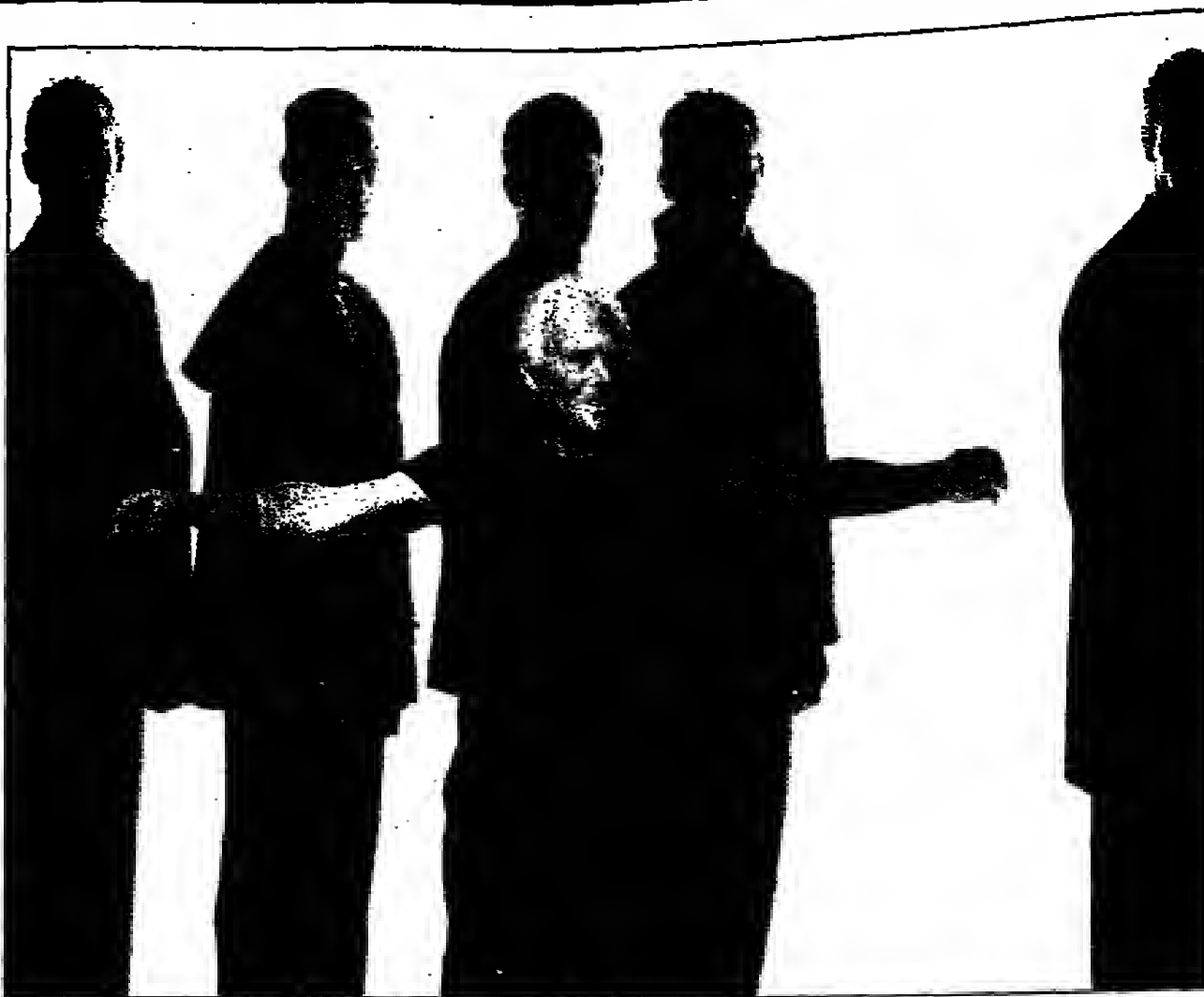
But talks have not begun - and indeed cannot begin until the Albanians sink their internal differences and adopt a common position. If anything, however, the rift seems to be widening between the political leadership under Ibrahim Rugova, which advocates peaceful means to secure independence, and the KLA,

which has been waging a war for 18 months to throw the Yugoslavs out by force.

That rivalry could explain the murder on Monday by unknown assassins of Exter Maloku, the chief of the pro-Rugova Kosovo Information Centre. The KLA insists Mr Maloku, who was shot outside his home in the province's capital, Pristina, was killed by Serbs in revenge for the death of several Serb farmers and policemen in previous days. Others suspect the KLA of being behind the attack.

What is not in doubt is that the KLA has used the recent lull to boost its strength, smuggling anti-tank weapons and other arms across the border from north-western Albania, where it is in virtual control.

This means that should the fighting restart in earnest, the Serbs will no longer have it all their own way.



Giorgio Armani at the end of his Milan show revealing his autumn/winter 1999 to 2000 collection. Luca Bruno

GREAT ITALIAN DESIGN DESERVES CREDIT



**0% FINANCE OVER TWO YEARS
PLUS ONE YEARS FREE INSURANCE**

With Italian good looks and a wide range of finance deals, the Fiat Punto is designed to accommodate both you and your wallet. And you'll no longer have to go deep for extras. On the Punto Sporting, for example, power steering, electric front windows, 6 speaker RDS radio-cassette, remote control central locking and

Punto Sporting

	2 years 0% APR	Lower Monthly Payment Fiat Escipion
On the road price*	£11,109.80	£11,169.80
Deposit £	£5,601.80	£3,343.97
Deposit %	50%	30%
Amount Financed	£5,508.00	£7,825.83
Period (Months)	24	25
Monthly Payments*	£325.00	£159.00
Rental Payment	N/A	£5,418.49
Charge for Credit	£0	£1,475.56
Total Amount Payable	£11,169.80	£12,645.36
APR %	0.0%	15.9%

drive windows all come as standard, so it doesn't take a chunk out of your bank. And you don't even have to look out for extras, because all Puntos also come with one year's free insurance. So if you want something that's easy on the eye and the pocket, call 0800 717 000, www.fiat.co.uk or visit your local Fiat dealer to find out more.

FIAT

Germany sets 'foreigners' a loyalty test

FOREIGNERS ASPIRING to German citizenship will have to take a language test and swear an oath of loyalty to the constitution. Those are two of the hurdles erected by the government yesterday as it strove to head off a right-wing backlash in the first reform of the racially defined German nationality law since 1913.

As the opposition Christian Democrats geared up for a national petition against the new law, Otto Schily, the Interior Minister, tried to allay fears that the abolition of "blood right" would water down German-ness. "Citizenship is not a one-way street," he said. "The government expects those naturalised to respect our social order and make an effort with the German language."

The wannabe Germans will have to be model citizens. Applicants must have no criminal record, they can be disqualified if they are living off social security, and will also face political vetting. The purpose of that last rule, Mr Schily said, was to

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

ensure that "Islamic fundamentalists, for example, are excluded".

The opposition and some of the media have made much of the threat of alien conflicts spilling into German streets, as witnessed in the past when Kurds clashed with Turks. About half of the 4 million migrants eligible under the new law come from Turkey.

The most important change will see German citizenship automatically bestowed upon third generation "foreigners" born in Germany. These new subjects would be allowed to keep dual nationality for the first time. Adults will be able to apply after eight years of residence, as opposed to the 15 years required at present. Foreigners married to Germans may apply after two years of marriage.

Until now, only those of German ancestry could be certain of a German passport.

Lawyer dies in love triangle

A 34-YEAR-OLD lawyer walked into a fashionable restaurant in the centre of Toulouse on Monday night, ordered a glass of champagne, took one sip and then shot himself.

Just over an hour earlier, another lawyer had been shot three times, and seriously wounded, by someone who had lain in wait for him outside his office, and it did not take police long to establish a link between the two incidents. The wife of the man who committed suicide, Maître Jean-Charles Ruf-

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

fié, was also a lawyer who worked for the victim of the earlier attack, Maître Patrick Abgrall, 47. Police believe that Mr Rufié suspected - perhaps wrongly - that his wife was having an affair with Mr Abgrall.

Monique Brocard, head of the Toulouse bar association, commented: "The fact that those involved are lawyers is irrelevant. Personal passions exist beneath lawyers' robes."

MARY KALDOR

**War is polarising -
there is no space for
democratic initiatives**

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

**You've found a bargain
in the sales.
Now you've found
a great way to pay for it.**

- You'll have fixed, low monthly payments.
- No compulsory insurance, arrangement fee or complicated paper work.
- No security or deposit required.
- Call now for an instant decision on loans from £1,000 to £25,000.



0181 680 9966 0161 831 9966 0141 248 9966
LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW
CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and
9am to 5pm Saturday.
www.directline.co.uk/loans Please quote ref. NIND46

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 289 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 8SA.
You must be aged 23 or over and have a regular income (evidence is required).
Subject to status. Available in England, Scotland and Wales. Written quotations on request. Calls recorded and monitored. Direct Line and the red phone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission.

Senate trial: As Hillary pays the price of one of his affairs, President Clinton faces the consequences of another

'I trust the right thing will be done'

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

WITH HIS impeachment trial only hours away, President Bill Clinton broke his public silence on the matter yesterday to say that he trusted the Senate to do "the right thing" and would continue to concentrate on his job as President.

Demonstrating yet again his famed capacity to "compartmentalise", Mr Clinton told reporters: "The important thing for me is to try to spend as little time thinking about that as possible... I trust the right thing will be done and I think that meanwhile I need to work on the business of the people."

Mr Clinton's agreement to respond to reporters' questions at the start of a White House meeting with trade union leaders was seen as a small concession by the White House after an explosion of correspondents' anger the previous day about the President's general unavailability to the media. The level of access to the President has been sharply curbed since allegations about Monica Lewinsky surfaced one year ago.

Even as Mr Clinton was speaking, the White House lawyers who are spearheading his defence and the 13 "managers" from the House of Representatives who are co-ordinating the "prosecution" were completing final preparations for the trial. Proceedings in what will be only the second presidential impeachment trial, and the first this century, start in earnest at 1pm today, with opening statements from both sides.

The President's lawyers yesterday followed up Monday's delivery of their 13-page defence brief with the dispatch to the Senate of a 130-page summary of their arguments.



Linda Tripp (below): Her tape recordings revealed Bill Clinton's affair



Chief among them is that the charges against the President - perjury before a grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky investigation and obstruction of justice in the (now settled) civil suit brought by Paula Jones - are unjustified. An accompanying argument is that even if the charges were proven, they are not serious enough to warrant removing an elected President.

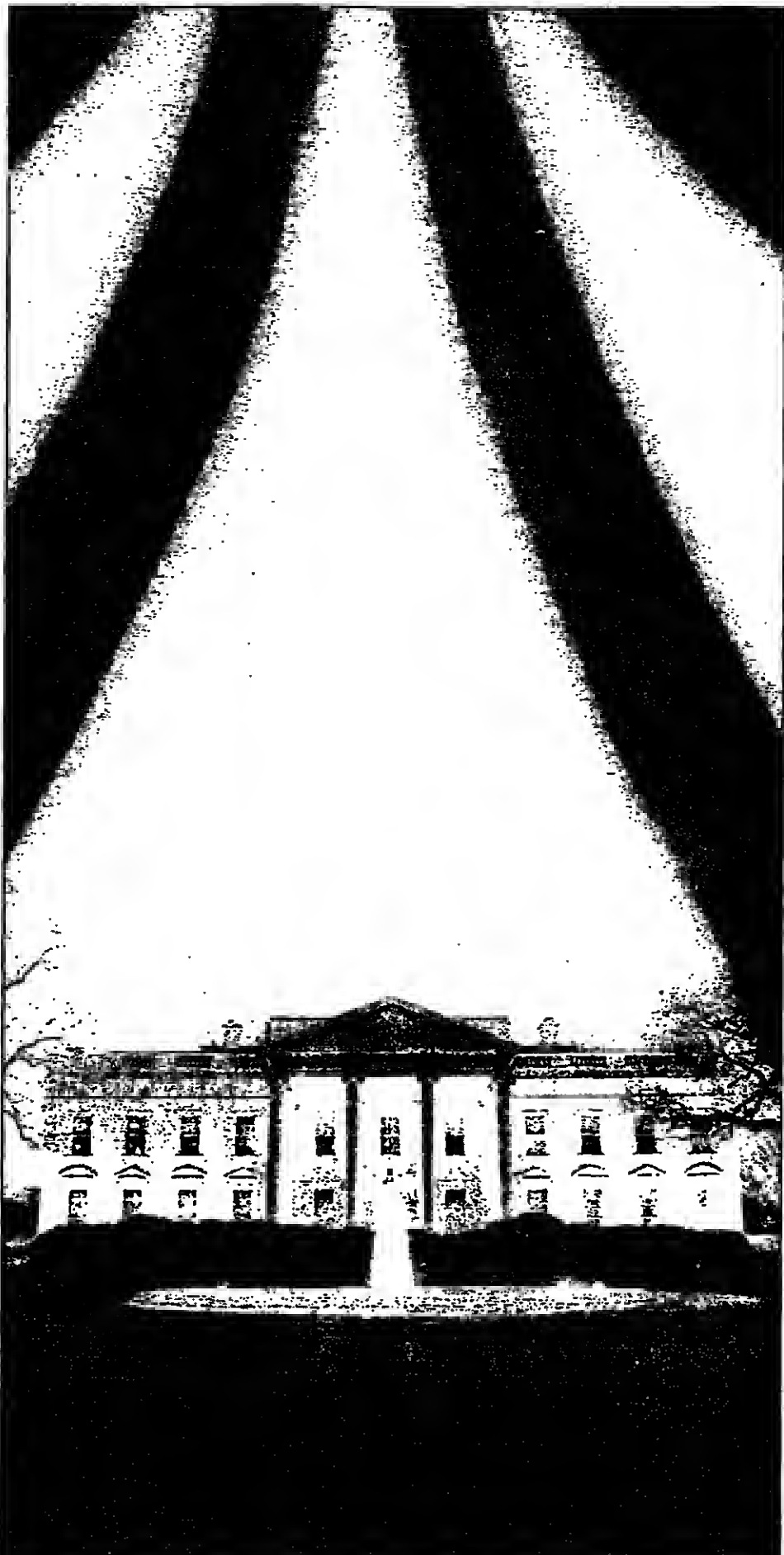
The summary also made the point - one heard repeatedly from Democrats in the House of Representatives during last year's impeachment hearings and subsequent debate - that the proceedings were politically inspired and unfair. And it proceeded to argue a wider point of principle, that convicting the President would irrevocably upset the balance of the US political system.

"Removing the President on these facts," it said, "would substantially alter the delicate constitutional balance, and move us closer to a quasi-parliamentary system, in which the President is elected to office by the choice of the people, but continues in office only at the pleasure of Congress."

The document also said that the White House lawyers would have "an urgent need" to seek additional evidence if the prosecutors tried to introduce material beyond what had already been collected and published in the report by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, and its accompanying documents.

The White House is adamantly opposed to any extension of the trial to cover other relationships that the President may have had with employees. It also objects to the Senate calling "live" witnesses, insisting that the testimony collected by Mr Starr is sufficient. Many Republican senators, however, say they want to be able to question some of the key players, including Monica Lewinsky herself and the President's private secretary, Betty Currie.

Yesterday marked exactly a year since Mr Starr opened his investigation into the Lewinsky affair, on the basis of recordings supplied to his office by Ms Lewinsky's one-time confidante, Linda Tripp.



The White House, where lawyers are planning the President's defence. Reuters

Mrs Clinton chips in for Jones deal

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

FORMALLY ENDING the chapter that triggered the Monica Lewinsky investigation, President Bill Clinton has paid the \$850,000 (£538,000) settlement that was the price of ending the sexual harassment lawsuit brought by Paula Jones. Contrary to expectations, almost half the money came from the Clintons' own resources, much of it saved by Mrs Clinton; the rest of the money came from an insurance policy.

According to White House sources, the Chubb insurance company, with which Mr Clinton had a policy that included a personal liability clause, agreed to pay out \$475,000. The company had funded a part of his legal expenses in the case and funded the settlement at the cost to Mr Clinton of liquidating the policy.

Many Americans have insurance policies - whether for property, contents, or cars - that include provision for legal costs and personal liability in the event of the policy holder being found liable in a lawsuit. This type of insurance, which is both a cause and a consequence of the increasingly litigious nature of the United States, has driven up the cost of insurance in the US to the point where some companies offer discounts to limit or exclude legal costs and personal liability.

For the remaining \$375,000, Mr Clinton drew on a blind trust - an investment portfolio held jointly by himself and his wife that had been placed under third party control for the duration of his presidency.

While the source of the money used to pay the Paula Jones settlement is essentially a private matter, the fact that it was leaked by the White House indicates it wanted the information in the public domain. The news seemed designed to convey several messages to Mr Clinton's supporters and to the public.

The first was that the President was meeting the costs of the Paula Jones case himself,

and was not calling on either the charitable legal defence fund set up to help to defray his legal expenses or on rich friends for a loan. Either could land him in new political trouble.

The second was that the Clintons are not without resources of their own. Much has been made of the Clintons' contention that they lost money on the speculative Whitewater land deal in Arkansas, but more than a decade ago Hillary Clinton made almost instant profits in a cattle futures venture that was recommended to her by a friend and broker.

There were also reports that Mrs Clinton was especially disappointed by the Whitewater failure because she had hoped the investment would pay for their daughter Chelsea's university fees. College fees are a big expense for middle-class American parents.

The third message, given that the bulk of the money in the investment trust was said to come from Mrs Clinton's earnings as a lawyer in Arkansas, was that she was still "standing by her man" - even at the cost of their future financial security. Mrs Clinton was the main breadwinner through the Arkansas years, earning considerably more than her husband as governor of one of the poorest states in America.

The timing of the payment - which was reported to have been dispatched on Tuesday by Mr Clinton's lawyers - seemed designed to ensure that the Paula Jones case was closed before the drama of the Senate impeachment trial begins today. Ms Jones had instituted her case in 1995, stemming from an incident in the Arkansas capital, Little Rock, four years before when, she alleged, Mr Clinton had invited her to a hotel room and asked her to perform oral sex.

UN considers French plan to lift oil embargo on Iraq

THE FIRST glimpse of a possible break in the diplomatic log-jam over future United Nations policy on Iraq surfaced yesterday when the French government stepped forward with a controversial proposal to lift the eight-year oil embargo on the country and to create a scaled-down regime of weapons inspections.

As the Security Council was preparing last night to study the three-point proposal, there were tentative indications that Britain, customarily allied with the United States in opposing any dilution of UN measures on Iraq, may be willing to consider it as a way of bridging divisions on future Iraq policy. This could leave Washington isolated at the UN.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one British official said London was not yet in a position to consider the lifting of the oil embargo. He went on to concede, however, that some trade-off may be possible in the

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

Security Council involving ending the embargo and simultaneous lifting of new controls on Iraq to bar it from developing new weapons of mass destruction.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry issued a statement arguing that, in the wake of December's cruise missile strikes on Iraq by Britain and the US, any notion of returning to the status quo ante, involving both invasive inspections by the UN and the maintenance of all sanctions, would be unrealistic.

"France thinks that it is time for the Security Council to consider that no progress can be made by an illusory resumption of previous methods," it said. Daniel Vaillant, Minister for Parliamentary Relations, added: "France is proposing something that will allow us to get out of the current impasse."

The diplomatic moves coincided with fresh military activity yesterday over the northern Iraq no-fly zone. The Pentagon confirmed that US warplanes had fired on Iraqi anti-aircraft missile sites in the region. It was the third such incident this week. The no-fly zones are patrolled by both American and British jets.

"There are indications that coalition aircraft were fired upon at least once by at least one Iraqi surface-to-air missile," a spokesman said. "The coalition air crews acted in self-defence." He said all coalition planes returned safely and denied Iraqi claims that its forces had "hit" one "enemy" plane.

Under UN policy, Iraq is allowed to export a limited volume of oil. The revenue from the exports is under strict UN control and can only be spent on importing foods and medicines. It is unclear whether

France, which has long had an eye on helping Iraq to revive its oil industry, envisages maintaining such controls if the embargo itself is lifted.

More vexing is the issue of how controls on Iraq's suspected weapons programmes could be maintained without the return of the Uncom inspectors, the special UN commission charged with hunting down Iraq's armaments. Clearly suggesting that Uncom itself should be shelved, Paris said it envisaged a new inspection team "under a reformed commission, in order to guarantee its independence and reinforce its professionalism". This appeared to be a swipe at Richard Butler, the Uncom chief, who has recently denied allegations that his inspectors had become infiltrated by American spies.

Leading article, Review, page 3

IN BRIEF

Iran-British relationship warms

IRAN AND Britain are expected to upgrade their diplomatic ties to ambassadorial levels soon, after years of tension over the Salman Rushdie affair, an Iranian newspaper reported yesterday. It said the two countries had decided to appoint their current charges d'affaires as ambassadors.

Bosnia war crimes suspect buried

THOUSANDS of people yesterday attended the funeral of a Bosnian Serb war-crimes suspect. Dragan Gavovic was sought by the UN war crimes tribunal for raping and torturing Muslim women in 1992 and 1993, but was killed by French Nato soldiers as they tried to arrest him.

Editor held over report of 'coup'

A ZIMBABWEAN editor spent his second day detained by military police yesterday after his newspaper reported on the arrest of 23 soldiers for plotting a coup. The government has denied the report in the Standard newspaper which is edited by Mark Chavuduka, 34.

Security agency bans a Furby

THE AMERICAN National Security Agency has banned a Furby, a toy resembling an owl with tufts of hair and huge pink ears from its Fort Meade premises in Maryland. It is considered a threat to national security because it contains a computer chip that allows it to record sounds.

Whodunit wife denies murder

THE WEEKEND was meant as a Valentine's Day getaway for couples with a taste for murder mysteries. The highlight was an Agatha Christie-style whodunit performed by amateur actors, with the audience participating to identify the killer. The play was a hit. However, within hours a guest was found dead.

This is the strange scenario at the heart of a murder trial in Easton, Maryland, on the shore of Chesapeake Bay. Prosecutors contend that on 14 February last year, Kimberly Ericko, 32, returned to her room after the play with her husband, Stephen, and murdered him.

Mrs Ericko is accused of administering poison to her husband. Hours before, the couple had watched how, in the play, a groom died after sipping poison-laced champagne.

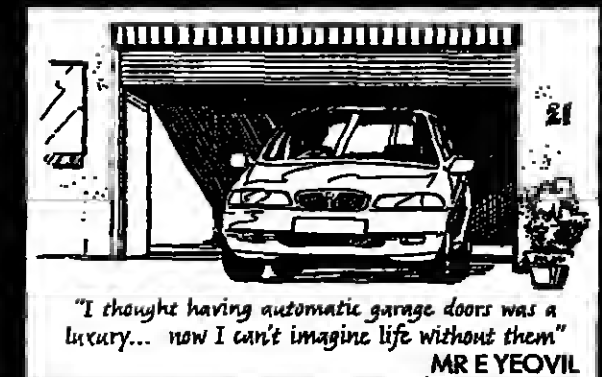
BY DAVID USBORNE

Robert Dean, the prosecutor, told the jury that the couple had been having long-running marital difficulties and that Mrs Ericko stood to collect \$200,000 (£128,000) in life insurance on her husband's death.

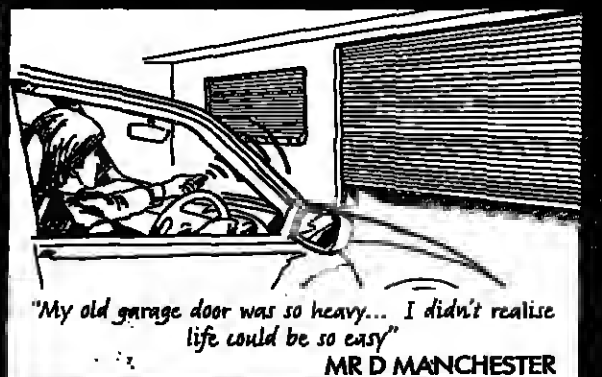
According to the defence, Mrs Ericko, who denies murder, left the hotel alone after the play to visit friends. When she returned she found her room filled with smoke. Stephen Ericko, 35, was dead.

Documents filed by the police say that Mrs Ericko had told friends that she wanted to kill her husband. She is alleged to have described how she would administer poison to paralyse him and then set fire to the room.

THE ULTIMATE ALARMED ROLL UP GARAGE DOOR



"I thought having automatic garage doors was a luxury... now I can't imagine life without them" MR E YEOVIL



"My old garage door was so heavy... I didn't realize life could be so easy" MR D MANCHESTER

The only Automatic Garage Door available that comes with all these benefits

- Audible alarm in case of forced entry**
Our standard garage door comes with an integral alarm system.
- Battery back-up in case of power failure**
Battery pack cuts in automatically when power fails.
- Automatic handset**
Open the door from the comfort of your own car.
- Intra red safety beam**
If the beam is broken the door will automatically stop.

Tough, resilient and secure, Nationwide Automatic Garage Doors are the best and the safest on the market... I wouldn't recommend anyone else"

John Stalker
Deputy Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police

NATIONWIDE AUTOMATIC GARAGE DOORS

01929 554901 24 HOURS

Please send me a copy of the Nationwide brochure today

Name: _____

Telephone No: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Send to: Nationwide, Freeport, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4BR

NO STAMP REQUIRED

Nigerians drive rebels from Freetown

THE REBEL army that invaded Freetown has been driven into the hills surrounding the Sierra Leone capital, according to the commander of the West African intervention force.

"The operation is almost complete," Cdr Timothy Shelpidi said yesterday in his first briefing on the military position since the rebels launched their attack on Freetown on 6 January. He said there were a few

BY ALLIEU IBRAHIM
KAMARA in Freetown
AND ALEX DUVAL SMITH

rebels hiding in the shanty towns around the Kissy area, in the east of the city, but he described these as isolated pockets.

Cdr Shelpidi said the intervention force, Ecomog, had suffered only light casualties, while rebel casualties numbered over 1,000 - but the in-

vaders had caused "colossal" damage to parts of Freetown.

As the fighting died down, Sierra Leone's rebels - widely seen as ruthless and with scant popular support - moved a step nearer to political legitimacy when their leader offered a ceasefire in return for his freedom.

The Sierra Leone president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, who is being guarded by Nigerian

troops, was due to hear today the conditions of the rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, through a United Nations intermediary. Mr Sankoh is being held in Conakry, capital of neighbouring Guinea.

It was not clear whether formal talks were being proposed by either party to end the civil war. But a senior UN representative suggested yesterday that President Kabbah was un-

likely to agree to Mr Sankoh's demand. Mr Sankoh, founder of the Revolutionary United Front, made the demand at talks in Conakry on Tuesday after being flown to Guinea from Freetown where he was being held in jail after his conviction for high treason and murder last October.

In Freetown yesterday, where sporadic gunfire was heard as Ecomog carried out

house-to-house searches in the east of the city, two Roman Catholic missionaries were released from captivity.

Ecomog said Maurizio Boa and Giuliano Pini had been used by the rebels as human shields during fighting on Monday. A Vatican spokesman said Ecomog soldiers initially as-

saulted the Italian priests, believing them to be European mercenaries fighting alongside

the rebels. A third Italian priest, Mario Guerra, was still being held by the rebels.

The UN official said that, besides his freedom, Mr Sankoh had asked for official recognition of the RUF, which has been accused by aid officials and civilians of atrocities against unarmed villagers.

Witnesses who fled eastern Freetown said the rebels had killed scores of civilians and

taken many hostages - including women and children - during their retreat from the city.

The UN refugee agency warned again yesterday of a possible humanitarian disaster in Freetown because hundreds of thousands of people have been trapped in their homes without water and unable to go outside to get food.

Leading article,
Review, page 3

Judge shifts goalposts in Anwar trial

A MALAYSIAN judge amended four corruption charges against the country's ousted finance minister Anwar Ibrahim yesterday, prompting the former cabinet member to protest he had been unfairly smeared by sex allegations.

"They already stripped me naked. Now they are amending the charges," a fuming Mr Anwar said during a break in his sex and corruption trial, which is now in its 10th week.

Mr Anwar was sacked and arrested in September, and later indicted on five counts each of corruption and sodomy. He has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

Prosecutors said their amendments involved only changes in the wording and did not alter the thrust of the corruption charges under initial examination at the High Court.

But the defence team said they narrowed the focus of the charges after the prosecution had spent over two months producing sordid testimony. Mr Anwar's chief counsel, Raja Aziz Raja Adrusse, said the prosecutors were now trying to avoid proving the allegations of sexual misconduct and sodomy. "They are seeking to procure a

BY K. RANANEE KRISHNAAN
in Kuala Lumpur

lower onus of proof," he said.

Legal experts said the prosecution was entitled to the move, but questioned its timing and motive. "The prosecution has the right to amend charges whenever it wishes, but many people are wondering why they have done so at this stage," an independent lawyer said.

Others asked why government lawyers had shamed Mr Anwar with lurid testimony if they had no intention of proving it. "I don't know whether it was more for public consumption," said R. R. Chelvarajah, vice-president of the Malaysian Bar Council.

High Court Judge Augustine Paul, who is both judge and jury in the trial at the centre of the current political turbulence in Malaysia, sided with the prosecution. "I'm of the view that it's no real substantive change," the judge said.

Mr Anwar's defence team countered later in the day, announcing that they planned to call the Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, and three other cabinet ministers as witnesses in the trial. (Reuters)



Anwar Ibrahim's wife and daughter joining protesters outside the court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Reuters

River deaths force action against graft

THE COLLAPSE of a footbridge, killing at least 40 people hurled into the river below, has finally prompted a crackdown on corruption and shoddy work in the Chinese building industry.

"How can people live when they walk on bridges or pass by buildings, thinking they may be caught in a sudden collapse of such structures?" the Construction Minister, Yu Zhengsheng, said in a report yesterday. Over the past few years there have been repeated reports of problems with poorly built bridges, but few accidents were properly detailed in the media.

But this latest disaster, whose victims included 18 soldiers out for a jog, appears to have alerted the government to the problems.

The accident happened on 4 January in Qijiang county, on the outskirts of the western city of Chongqing.

Yesterday the China Daily said four people had been detained in an investigation and two removed from their jobs. Structural problems, sub-standard reinforced concrete and poor maintenance were the main causes of the collapse.

Mr Yu said the number of

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

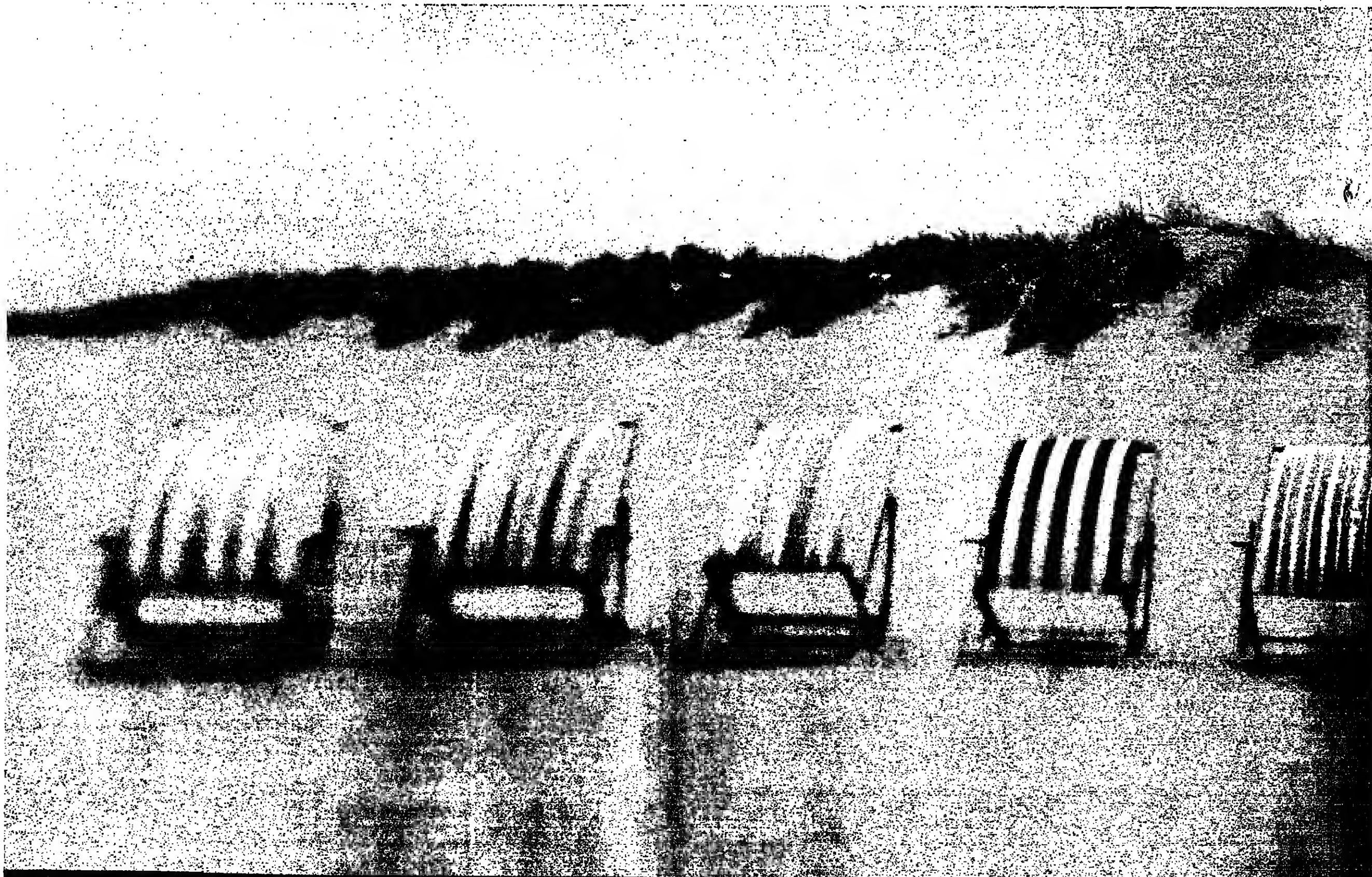
complaints about poor construction had risen 50 per cent since 1997.

In another case, a highway in Yunnan province was closed days after opening because of subsidence caused by shoddy construction material.

As ever in China, corruption is often the cause of such problems. Corrupt companies and officials agree to cut corners and costs and pocket the money saved. Cadres can be bribed into giving safety and completion certificates, despite the sub-standard work.

The government is again making a determined effort to crack down on corruption generally, but the scale of the problem is overwhelming. Last year, it was announced yesterday, the country handled 108,828 cases of bribery and dereliction of duty.

Of more than 40,000 people investigated in the cases, 1,520 were government officials ranking above the county level and 7,065 were judicial and administrative officials, said Han Zhubin, the head of the Supreme People's Procuratorate.



ANOTHER PRICE CUT BY BRITISH GAS

WHAT'S SIN

town Israel election burglary scandal

deaths
action
t graft

THE THEFT of confidential papers and computer disks from the Washington office of a US political consultant advising Ehud Barak, the leader of the Israeli Labour party, is injecting fresh venom into the Israeli election campaign.

The burglars entered the office of Stanley Greenberg, a prominent Democratic pollster, through an air vent and then cut a hole through the ceiling. Tal Silberstein, Mr Barak's campaign manager, said the thieves "knew exactly what they wanted because the only file taken was one dealing with the Israeli campaign".

The Israeli press yesterday compared the theft to the Watergate burglary of 1974 when a break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters orchestrated from the White House ultimately led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. The run-up to the Israeli election, which takes place on 17 May, is particularly rancorous because the two leading candidates, Mr Barak and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, are competing against former colleagues.

Sergeant Joe Gentile, of the District of Columbia police, confirmed that the robbers entered the offices of Greenberg Quinlan Research late on Monday night or early Tuesday and stole confidential files. He said the police and the FBI were investigating the possibility that "certain documents were targeted".

Several members of the Labour party were quick to suggest that Mr Netanyahu's Likud party was behind the

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

burglary, although Aliza Goren, Mr Barak's spokeswoman, said: "We cannot point to any guilty party and certainly have no idea who did this." Likud said it hoped the thieves would be caught.

Both Labour and Likud have hired American political consultants for the coming campaign. In the 1996 election Mr Netanyahu's victory was partly credited to Arthur Finkelstein, a right-wing American consultant, who advised him no tactics and strategy. Mr Greenberg has in the past played a leading role in advising President Bill Clinton.

The Labour party milked the incident for all it was worth yesterday, but was nervous of giving the impression that its political policies were being decided in the US. It said all important decisions on the election were made in Israel.

Mr Barak's campaign is already floundering because of the emergence of centrist candidates, such as the former chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who are convinced the Labour leader cannot beat Mr Netanyahu. Mr Barak also faced a fresh row at the Labour party convention yesterday because he wants to put his own allies high up on the Labour list for the Knesset elections. That would force a number of party veterans out of politics.

Hagai Meiron, a Labour Knesset member, left the party earlier in the week because he was "not built to serve in the court of a one-man ruler".



A Russian soldier at the Ruci bridge between Abkhazia and Georgia. Many believe Abkhazian separatists were provoked by factions within Russia

Scott McNee

Deadly harvest in an agricultural paradise

FRONTLINE
ABKHAZIA

"I HAVE nothing left, I have no money and my belongings are burnt; but I can't live here like this; I must go back and if they kill me, they kill me." Zisa Dari is one of the 40,000 refugees driven out of Gali in the separatist Georgian province of Abkhazia by a new sweep of ethnic cleansing last May. Like many, she has moved only a few kilometres over the border to Zugdidi, the other side of the Inguri river, from where she watched the plumes of black smoke that marked the destruction of the Gali villages by the Abkhaz militia.

Under the presidency of Vladislav Ardzinba, the unrecognised Republic of Abkhazia has expelled almost all ethnic Georgians from the province in favour of the minority Abkhaz. Georgia already supports more than 300,000 displaced Georgians who fled during the civil war of 1992-93.

Abkhazia was known as the garden of Russia. For the refugees in Zugdidi, most of them farmers, the decision to risk crossing back over the border to gather crops is a simple choice between extreme hardship and possible death at the hands of the Abkhaz militia. Zisa and her family have decided to take the risk.

He tried to run for the border hut died before he reached Zugdidi. One time I too was captured; they beat me and told me that I was not allowed to move on their territory; but what can I do? I have to get food for my children."

Despite the danger, there is still a steady movement to and fro, usually undertaken by the older female family members who are considered least at risk from the partisan groups roaming the region. Many of the older residents, like Zisa, say they prefer to risk death in returning to what remains of

their villages than end their days cramped 13 to a room in a freezing schoolhouse.

Mine explosions are still a daily occurrence, and cross-border shooting has taken place as recently as the past month. Last September, Ardzinba requested a meeting with the Georgian President, Edward Shevardnadze, amid fears that renewed hostilities would break out. The talks have yet to materialise.

News of the planned meeting has not been well received. The shooting of three United Nations observers in Sukumi

on 21 September was regarded by many as a direct attempt to undermine the negotiations.

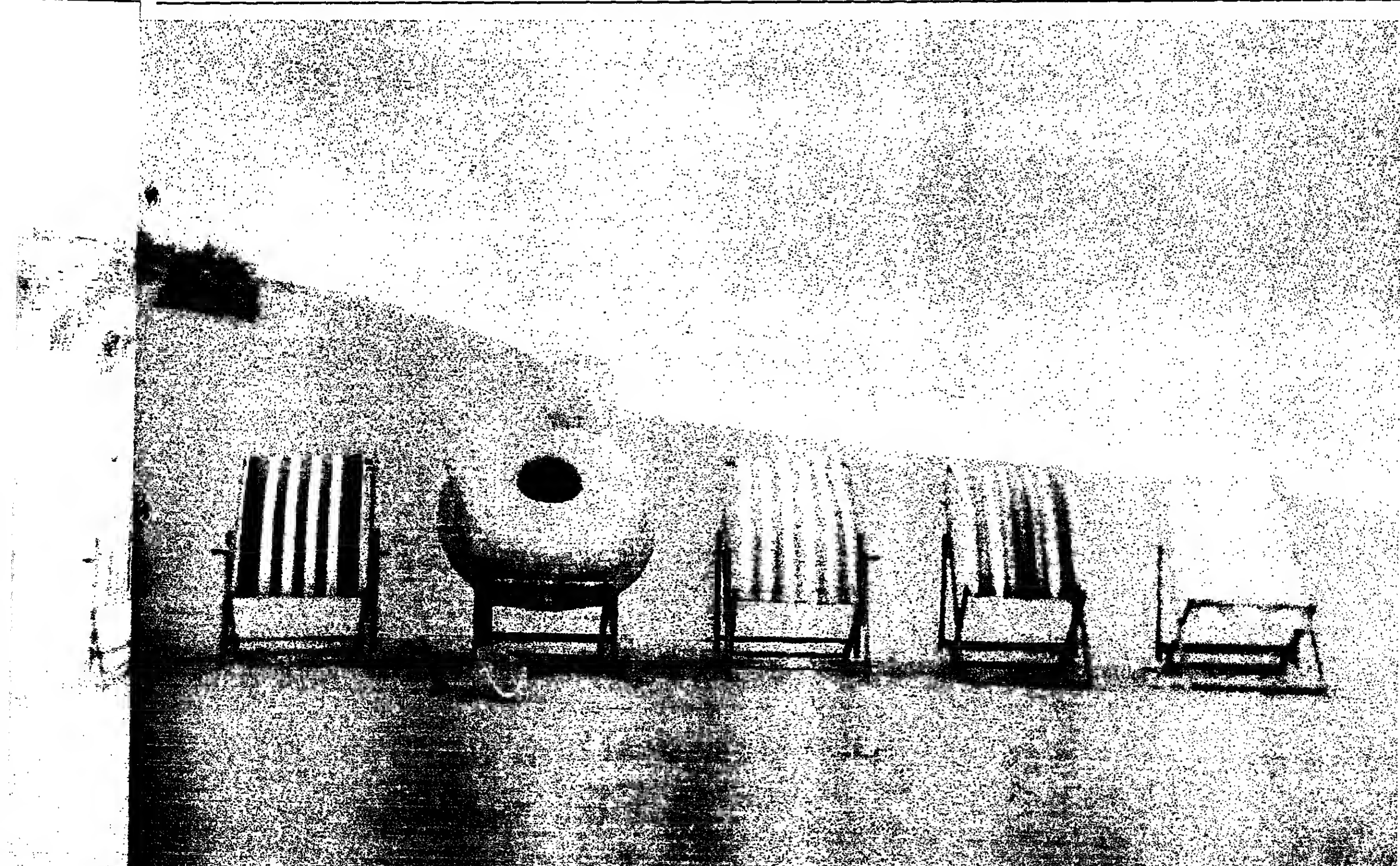
Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia in exile, supports Mr Shevardnadze's efforts in theory, but no longer feels that anything can be achieved by peaceful negotiation. "Some 300,000 people are homeless and have waited five years to return. We have no hope that politically this will be possible without war."

Mr Nadareishvili supports the popular belief that the Abkhazian separatists were strongly provoked and supported by certain factions within Russia who still oppose Georgian independence. How

else, he argues, could the ethnic Abkhaz, numbering only 80,000, have overthrown the majority Georgian population? While this view is shared by Zurab Zhvania, chairman of the Georgian parliament, he is swift to point out that the last thing Georgia needs is a deterioration in relations with their powerful next door neighbour.

"We are extremely interested in a well-balanced, very close, economic and cultural relationship with Russia. We don't want anybody in Russia to think that we will present any threat. But we demand equal relations, and that small countries have the right to enjoy their independence."

BETTIE JUDAH



WHAT'S SIX IN A ROW.
In 1998, British Gas made five gas price cuts. And in March we are introducing yet another for millions of customers.
KEEPING PRICES ON LOW. **British Gas**
Home Energy

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

Brazil financial crisis sends world markets into turmoil

BRIEFING

IPC restructure to cut 200 staff

IPC, THE MAGAZINE publisher behind titles such as *Loaded* and *Country Life*, yesterday announced plans to cut about 200 staff and restructure its business into five divisions. The changes are designed to cut annual costs by about £6m. The cuts will raise fears that IPC has not been performing as well as expected since it was bought by a management team, backed by the venture capital group Cinven, for £800m twelve months ago.

Investors back BTR-Siebert merger

THE £88m merger between the engineering groups Siebert and BTR was approved overwhelmingly by shareholders in both companies yesterday. Despite suggestions of a revolt by institutional investors over the terms of the all-paper deal, Siebert shareholders voted 99 per cent in favour while BTR shareholders backed the merger by a similar crushing majority. The enlarged business, one of the biggest controls and automation groups in the world, will be run by Siebert's chief executive Allen Yurko (pictured). Siebert shareholders will own 55 per cent of the company and BTR shareholders 45 per cent.

Carpetbagger drops out

STEPHEN MAJOR, the plumber from Lisburn, Northern Ireland who tabled a proposal for Bradford & Bingley to convert to a bank, yesterday dropped out of elections to the society's board. Mr Major said he had never wanted to be a director and was bowing out to avoid mud-slinging from the media. But he said he would still campaign for the society to convert. Bradford & Bingley's 2.5 million members are due to vote on his proposal, for the society to take steps towards conversion, at an annual general meeting on 26 April.

- Double blow sends share prices plunging across the globe
- \$41m bailout in doubt as Brazil abandons defence of currency
- Concern grows over China as \$3bn debts are revealed

THE WORLD'S financial markets plunged into turmoil yesterday following clear signs that the crisis in emerging markets is far from over.

Brazil abandoned its attempt to defend its currency, a condition of the rescue package it negotiated with the International Monetary Fund in November. The move triggered the resignation of Gustavo Franco, governor of the country's central bank, and called into question the future of the \$41.5bn bailout.

The Brazilian drama followed the earlier news that Guangdong Enterprises, the Chinese government's holding company for businesses in the province, had debts of \$2.94bn. Foreign investors in those businesses will be asked to provide new capital to refinance them.

The double whammy sent stock markets reeling, although shares in London and New York recovered from earlier lows.

The FTSE 100 index closed down nearly 184 points at 5,850, having dropped as much as 287 points. By noon in New York, the Dow Jones index was 158 lower at 9,316.86, after falling as much as 261 points in early trade.

The US Administration reacted with barely concealed nervousness to the Brazilian moves. A collapse of the Latin American economy would hit US trade very badly at a time when the trade deficit is already soaring, and problems on Wall Street would very quickly dent the Administration's reputation as a solid economic manager.

President Bill Clinton made a statement backing Brazil, and urging it to continue with reform. "We have a strong interest in seeing Brazil, with whom we have worked on so many important things around the world, carry forward with its economic reform plan and succeed," he said.

US officials consulted with

BY DIANE COYLE, ANDREW MARSHALL, LEA PATERSON AND ANDREW GARFIELD

other Group of Seven nations, and US Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, Larry Summers, who covers international affairs, cancelled a trip to New York. Mr Summers, along with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, brokered the \$41.5bn deal to prop up Brazil's economy.

The International Monetary Fund made no comment. It provided \$18bn of last year's package, of which \$5.3bn has already been disbursed. Brazil can draw another \$4.5bn by late February as long as it meets the conditions of the package.

Deputy finance ministers from the G7 countries are due to meet on Saturday, and finance ministers and central bank governors will meet in Bonn next month. The dire economic situation in Brazil and the danger that China will be the next emerging economy to plunge into crisis will be on the agenda.

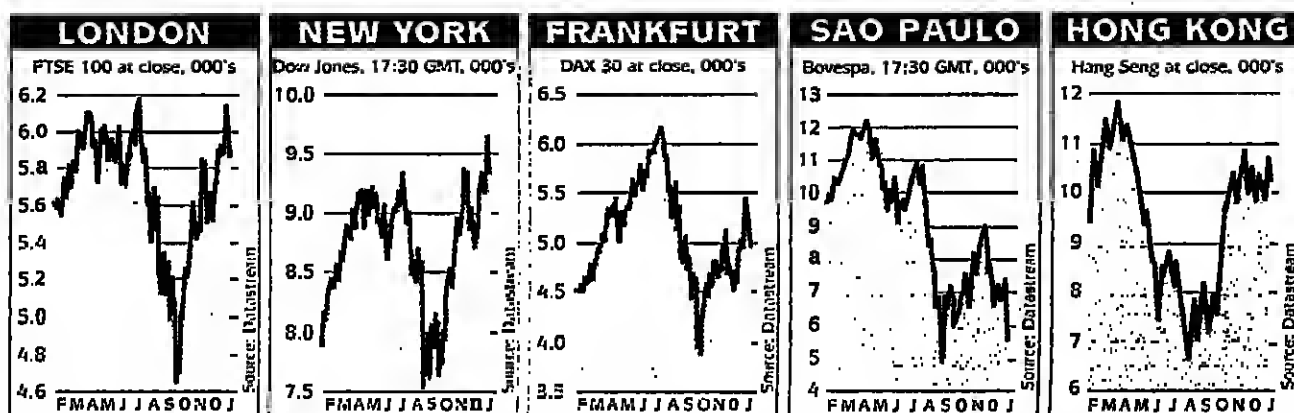
Brazil announced that its currency would trade in a new, wider range of 1.2 to 1.32 reais to the dollar, rather than the previous 1.12-1.22 reais. The rate fell immediately to the top of the new band, an effective 9 per cent devaluation. The move followed a renewal of massive capital flight, which reached \$1.2bn on Tuesday.

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Brazil's president, pledged that congress would approve his government's budget-cutting plans, another key part of the IMF programme. He also announced plans to increase the tax on financial transactions.

Francisco Lopes, the new central bank governor, tried to stem speculation about further devaluation, and said Brazil had almost \$45bn in foreign exchange reserves as ammunition



New York traders surrounding the post for Telebras, the Brazilian telephone company, yesterday. American banks have about \$25.6bn of loans to Brazil



to defend the new range. The Bovespa share price index had fallen 10 per cent in early trading and was closed for half an hour but recovered to a 5 per cent fall by late afternoon. US banks have around \$74bn of loans to Latin America, of which \$25.6bn is to Brazil, according to figures published by the Federal Reserve in October. Chase Manhattan, the biggest American lender to the region

with loans of \$13.6bn and recent owner of Banco Paranaense de Investimentos, the country's third biggest investment bank, fell 37 per cent to \$70. Citigroup which is Brazil's eighth largest private sector bank fell 36.75 to \$49.

In London, National Westminster Bank was the hardest hit, its share price falling 10 per cent at one point, despite having minimal exposure to Latin America. Lloyds puts its total

loan exposure at £1.8bn, less than 0.5 per cent of total assets. HSBC has around \$2.5bn of Brazilian loans outstanding.

Stock markets in Madrid and Lisbon, perceived as having the largest exposure to Latin America, were worst hit. Madrid's benchmark index tumbled by 6.3 per cent, while in Portugal leading shares fell by 3.7 per cent.

In Germany shares in Deutsche Bank fell 7.3 per cent,

while rival Dresdner saw its shares tumble by 8.1 per cent. The benchmark Dax Xetra index closed down 214.01 points, or 4.1 per cent, at 4982.12.

In the Far East, concerns about China's debts sent Hong Kong's Hang Seng index down 437.79 points to close at 10,273.77. Investor flight to quality sent US and Western European bonds soaring, and yields fell to near-record lows.

Green still wants Sears despite investor handout

PHILIP GREEN, the retail entrepreneur stalking Sears, is still interested in launching a formal bid for the company and will reveal his hand in the next few days. The news came after Sears announced a downbeat Christmas trading statement and the sale of its Creation store card.

It has sold the former Sears Card operation to two French banks for £141m. Sears shareholders will receive a special payment of 141p per share, a far higher figure than earlier estimates. Sears also said it is in discussions regarding the sale of a number of properties with net book value of £134m.

Though Sears seemed confident it had "spiked Mr Green's guns", the retail entrepreneur appeared undaunted yesterday. "They've given money to every-

BY NIGEL COPE, Associate City Editor

one else so it's about time they gave some to the shareholders," he said. "But it doesn't change anything. We are studying the position. I will be discussing the situation with my advisers and we'll take it from there."

Mr Green has just returned to Britain after spending the Christmas holidays abroad. He has already had a 340p approach rejected as the board felt it had too many conditions attached. However, it is by no means certain that Mr Green will increase his price.

As an analyst commented: "Given the Sears management track record so far, would you rather have 340p or 141p for the company in April and leave them in charge?"



Sir Bob Reid (left), chairman of Sears, has not succeeded in spiking the guns of Philip Green

Sears has sold its Creation Financial Services division to Groupe Cofinoga and Banque Nationale de Paris. The £141m price tag was higher than earlier expectations of £110m-£120m. Sears' trading statement showed that the group is continuing to suffer from fragile consumer confidence and a weak portfolio of formats. In the 23 weeks to 9 January its clothing division, which takes in Miss Selfridge, Richards and Adams

childrenswear, saw sales increase 5 per cent on last year, but fell 1 per cent on a like-for-like basis. Over the same period sales at Freemans, Sears' mail-order operation, fell 5 per cent. Mr Green had been waiting to see the trading update before making his next move. His key challenge is to win over Sears' major shareholder, Phillips & Drew, which holds 24 per cent. Sears shares closed 25p higher at \$10.5p

Morgan shares plummet on profit warning

SHOCK WAVES reverberated through the engineering sector yesterday after Morgan Crucible, the industrial ceramics group, issued a profits warning and announced 1,000 jobs losses worldwide.

The warning sent Morgan Crucible shares down by 30 per cent and prompted sharp falls in other engineering stocks, the worst hit being other companies exposed to overseas markets.

Morgan Crucible said that profits for the year just ended would be 15-20 per cent lower than the £108m recorded in the previous year. The group said it was responding with a "major attack" on overheads and manning levels and the disposal of businesses with combined turnover of £200m-£300m a year.

The 1,000 redundancies will cost the group £15m and will be spread across Europe, Asia and America. The group declined to say how many jobs losses there would be the UK where it employs 4,000 out of a group total of 15,000.

Vic Maudrell, the board director running the group's technical ceramics division, is also stepping down and is in line for a pay-off of up to £360,000. He is on a two-year contract and earned £180,000 last year.

Ian Norris, chief executive, said that the group had been hit by a downturn in orders from several of its major customers, including the steel, semiconductor, car and aerospace industries. However, Morgan Crucible is maintaining its dividend and says it is optimistic that profits will increase in the second half of this year.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Morgan Crucible shares fell 70p to 183.5p, wiping £182m from its market capitalisation. Other engineering stocks fell in its wake, with Bodycote off by 9 per cent, IML off by 8 per cent, Cookson by 7 per cent and Johnson Matthey by 6 per cent.

November and December are usually highly profitable months for Morgan Crucible but last year the group was hit by cuts in inventory levels and deferred or order into the new year.

In the US, the influx of Asian steel imports meant that fewer blast furnace refurbishments were carried out, reducing demand for Morgan Crucible's refractory products.

The group was also affected by the rescheduling of component orders following the General Motors strike and production problems at Boeing in semiconductor, destocking and deferral of orders led to a £12m reduction in business while currency translation knocked another £3.5m off profits because of the strong pound.

Morgan Crucible said the downturn had been "swift and savage," adding that the cost-cutting measures it had now put in place would hit profits in the first half of the current year. But it forecast that benefits would begin to flow through in the second six months and would then add "significantly" to profits in future years, provided that there was no further marked deterioration in trading.

Outlook, page 17

Jobless fall 'just a statistical blip'

THERE WAS an unexpected piece of good news for the Government yesterday as unemployment fell to its lowest level in almost two decades.

But economists warned that jobless totals would almost certainly rise again in coming months, and said the figures should be no barrier to another UK interest-rate cut.

The number of people claiming benefit tumbled by 14,000 in December to 1.31 million, the lowest level since June 1980. Unemployment also fell on the Government's preferred ILO measure, a more broadly-based estimate of the jobless total. A

BY LEA PATERSON

sharp fall in the number of women out of work helped to take the ILO measure down by 26,000 to 1.79 million between September and November.

Employment reached record levels, said the Office for National Statistics, with services industries such as banking and finance leading job creation. But jobs continued to be lost in manufacturing: in the three months to November the number of manufacturing jobs was 1.5 per cent lower than in the same period in 1997, according to official figures.

City analysts, who had expected a rise in both measures of unemployment, called the fall in the jobless total a statistical blip. Some said mild December weather may have boosted the construction industry. Others attributed the fall in unemployment to the Government's welfare-to-work programme.

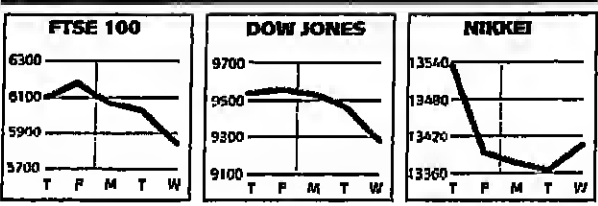
Sudhir Junankar, associate director of economic analysis at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "The slight falls in underlying unemployment are welcome but seem unlikely to continue given other evidence of an increasing slowdown in the economy. Fur-

ther interest-rate cuts are still needed to stave off the danger of an outright recession."

Ken Wattret at Paribas said: "The real economy tells us that things will be pretty nasty in the first and second quarters. From the perspective of interest rates, nothing has really changed."

Dharshini David at HSBC said: "Surveys indicate that employment will fall and unemployment rise over the coming months. Services job creation in particular is likely to tail off." The data would have a limited impact on the rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee, said Ms David.

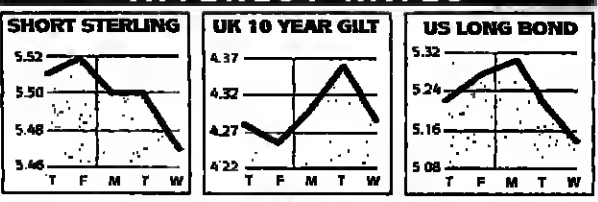
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5850.10	-183.50	6195.50	4599.20	2.76
FTSE 250	4874.40	-102.70	5205.90	4247.60	3.51
FTSE 350	2761.10	-82.20	2955.10	2210.40	2.89
FTSE All Share	2665.81	-77.52	2886.52	2143.53	2.91
FTSE SmallCap	2109.60	-31.20	2293.60	1834.40	3.82
FTSE Fledgling	1165.10	-15.40	1317.10	1046.20	4.29
FTSE AIM	806.50	-6.30	1146.90	761.50	1.23
FTSE Europe 100	2706.83	-116.17	3079.27	2016.15	3.51
FTSE Europe 300	1169.55	-46.25	1332.07	880.63	1.96
Dow Jones	9325.23	-179.71	9647.96	7400.30	1.64
Nikkei	13403.60	-42.63	13752.95	12787.90	1.08
Hang Seng	10273.77	-437.79	11926.16	6544.79	3.37
Dax	4982.12	-268.30	5217.83	3833.71	1.74
S&P 500	1224.93	-14.51	1278.05	923.32	1.39
Nasdaq	2302.97	-17.78	2396.30	1937.09	0.20
Toronto 300	6814.40	-86.43	7837.70	5320.50	1.84
Brazil Bovespa	9554.43	-261.12	12339.14	4575.69	10.50
Belgium Bel20	3415.15	-81.68	3713.21	2476.49	1.91
Amsterdam Eux	507.29	-28.95	540.00	356.58	1.94
France CAC 40	3958.72	-141.98	4404.94	2881.21	2.04
Spain IBEX 35	3421.00	-158.00	3917.00	2417.00	1.19
Italy Milan 20	9321.70	-688.80	10989.80	6869.90	1.99
Irish Allshare	8067.56	-166.31	8581.70	7379.57	1.41
S Korea Comp	633.03	-1.84	651.95	277.37	0.56
Australia ASX	2622.00	-24.90	2902.90	2196.70	3.16

INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr. chg.
UK	5.89	-1.60	5.45	-2.03
US	5.03	-0.56	5.06	-0.56
Japan	0.54	-0.18	0.55	-0.13
Germany	3.18	-0.38	3.11	-0.72

BOND YIELDS

Index	10 year	Yr. chg.
UK	4.29	-1.71
US	4.71	-1.14
Japan	1.79	-0.08
Germany	3.71	-1.33

CURRENCIES



POUND

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr. chg.
Dollar	1.6493	+1.82c	1.6342	0.6119
Euro	1.4102	-0.13c	1.4079	1.1659
Yen	187.22	+44.51	214.83	131.51
£ Index	99.00	+0.40	104.80	110.20

DOLLAR

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr. chg.
Sterling	0.6063	-0.67p	0.6119	1.1659
Euro	1.1700	+1.54c	1.1659	1.1659
Yen	113.43	+41.64	131.51	131.51
Base Rates	6.00	7.25		

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr. chg.
Brent Oil (\$)	11.01	-0.47	14.98	
Gold (\$)	286.25	-2.40	283.15	
Silver (\$)	5.19	-0.17	5.59	

TOURIST RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr. chg.
Australia (\$)	2.4834			
Austria (schillings)	18.85			
Belgium (francs)	55.44			
Canada (\$)	2.4253			
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7955			
Denmark (krone)	10.28			
Finland (markka)	8.1744			
France (francs)	9.0167			
Germany (marks)	2.6933			
Greece (drachma)	446.76			
Hong Kong (\$)	12.32			
Ireland (pounds)	1.0796			
India (rupees)	62.63			
Israel (shekels)	6.1790			
Italy (lira)	2670			
Japan (yen)	179.09			
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9733			
Malta (lira)	0.6024			

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Brazil's day of reckoning comes despite the bailout

News Analysis:
The \$41bn rescue package from the IMF was just putting off the inevitable

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

THERE IS no more sure sign of an impending crisis than capital flight. Ever since it reached agreement two months ago on a \$41bn rescue package led by the International Monetary Fund, Brazil has been kissing goodbye to billions of dollars fleeing to safer havens overseas.

In December, it was more than \$5bn. Up to Tuesday about \$1bn had left in January, with another \$1.2bn on Tuesday itself. Altogether, the total capital flight in recent months has passed the \$50bn mark.

No wonder Professor Rudiger Dornbusch at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has joked that the IMF's new telephone number is 1-800-BAILOUT. Yesterday's devaluation, resignation of the central bank governor and financial market implosion in Brazil confirmed the worst fears of the Fund's critics. Its rescue package, pumping in taxpayers' funds, had given investors enough time to get their money out of Brazil before what many saw as an inevitable speculative attack on the currency.

The emergency loan, of which the UK's share amounts to \$1bn, was due to be doled out to the Brazilian government in tranches subject to it satisfying the terms of an IMF adjustment programme. The second instalment is due to be handed over next month.

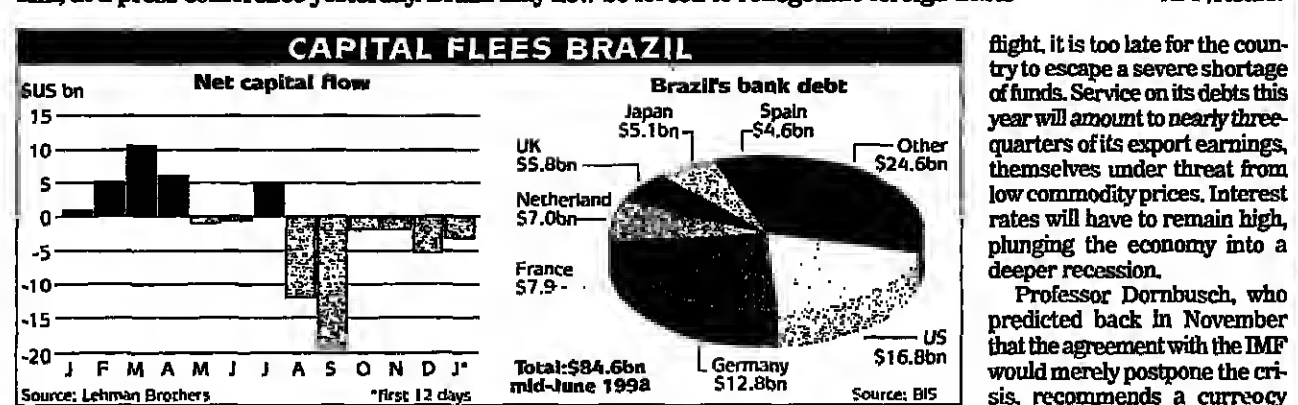
The loans were intended to tide the country over on its repayments on international loans, mostly short-term, of which \$60bn will come due during 1999. In effect, the IMF would ensure that commercial banks and other investors in Brazil got paid on old loans so that they would continue to make new loans.

The plan was controversial, with little support among the governments of the G7 leading economies. Some, including France and Germany, were bitterly opposed. They argued that it created more "moral hazard", whereby banks would continue to make too many risky loans on the assumption the authorities would always bail them out.

The decision to fix the Brazil-



Gustavo Franco (left) who quit as Brazil's central bank president, and Francisco Lopes, the deputy who replaces him, at a press conference yesterday. Brazil may now be forced to renegotiate foreign debts



ian currency, allowing it to depreciate only in tiny steps, was also unwelcome. Brazil has a huge balance of payments deficit amounting to 4 per cent of its gross domestic product, and without a devaluation it would stay bigger for longer, increasing the country's need for foreign capital.

But strong US support, given the exposure of the US banking system to Latin America, swung the day. The alternative to the IMF rescue, it was argued, was a new panic in the international financial markets, based on the heels of Russia's default and the collapse of Long-Term Capital Management.

In addition, Brazil's legacy of hyperinflation - peaking at more than 2,700 per cent a year in the early 1990s - until the intro-

duction of a new currency, the real, in 1994, made President Cardoso reluctant to contemplate a big devaluation.

Yet only days after the formal agreement with the IMF had been signed last month, the rescue plan ran into trouble. Brazil's congress voted against the first measures Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the President, had proposed to cut government spending and raise taxes. The plan to cut the deficit from 8 per cent to 5.5 per cent of GDP - equivalent to a reduction of more than \$20bn - fell at the first hurdle.

Combined with interest rates of around 30 per cent, the plan certainly set Brazil on course for a recession this year. The IMF downgraded its forecast from 2 per cent growth in GDP to a 1

A DAY like yesterday, with the Footsie losing some 5 per cent, is one of those days when people tend to ponder questions about the valuation of equities. Are shares really worth 5 per cent less than they were a few hours earlier? Which of the many forms of valuing shares are more appropriate? Is there such a thing as a fundamental valuation?

I would not pretend to be able to answer these questions, but I have found a couple of recent papers extremely helpful in sorting out the various issues that equity valuation involves. One focuses on the UK, the other on the US.

The UK paper actually comes from Montreal, from the latest issue of *The International Bank Credit Analyst*. Myles Zybkow, one of the editors, concludes that the period of under-performance of UK equities is about to come to an end. Under-performance? Yes, the market has done pretty well in absolute terms but relative to the US our market has not done well during the 1990s. This is in sharp contrast to the 1980s, when UK shares did much better than US.

The argument developed here is that the great burst of share prices during the 1980s was in response to the supply-side reforms of the British economy that took place. True, similar reforms also occurred in the US, but because the UK economy started from so much lower a base, there was more scope for improvement. This was recognised by the markets, which duly marked shares up.

During the 1990s, however, it was US industry that carried out the great restructuring. There were several aspects to this: takeovers and mergers, downsizing of workforces, a surge in investment, particularly in information technology. This has improved performance, which again has been reflected in share prices.

However, there are weaknesses in the US corporate scene. Profits have not done as well as headlines suggest, as recent earnings growth has been bolstered by one-off events.

And even if leading stock markets bounce back once again in weeks to come, the already-disrupted flow of capital to emerging economies could dry up entirely. The flow of investment fell to a meagre \$67bn in 1998, compared with a peak of \$250bn. For Brazil, the danger that its creditors will refuse new loans could force it to default - an event that would ratchet up the two-year international financial crisis another notch.

Are shares really worth less today?

HAMISH MCRAE

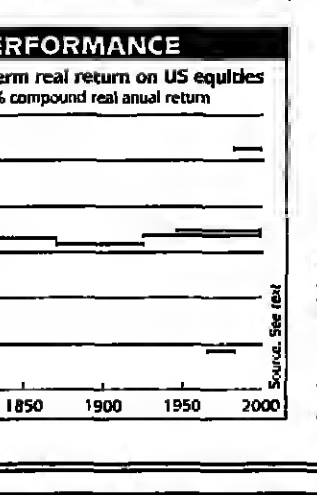
UK shares have relatively little downside risk, at least relative to US securities

By contrast, there is more scope for increases in the earnings of UK companies. Investment is growing and the wage bill is falling. Corporate profits as a share of GDP are close to the peak of the late 1980s. Further, falling bond yields have made UK equities look cheap relative to bonds. Only on four occasions in the last 50 years have shares looked so cheap relative to gilts.

The moral of all this is that UK shares have relatively little downside risk and considerable upside potential, at least relative to US securities. Expect short-term volatility, but build modest UK positions and sell US ones.

Implicit in this view is the assumption that US shares are overvalued. That has certainly been the position of the Bank Credit Analyst team for some time. A more developed analysis of US equity market valuations comes from Sushil Wadhawani, currently at Tudor Investment Corporation, previously equity strategist at Goldman Sachs, and one of the most thoughtful market analysts here in London.

The core ideas of his paper, "The US Stock Market and the Global Economic Crisis", to be published in next month's *National Institute Economic Review*, are: first, that the US equity market is indeed highly valued by historical standards; second, that there are above-average risks associated with the world economy at the moment (I suppose Brazil counts as one of those);



and third, that holders of US equities are not being compensated for those risks by having low prices.

Of course none of this precludes the possibility that US shares might go higher in the short-term; nor does it mean that equities are a bad investment long-term.

Indeed one of the most fascinating aspects of Dr Wadhawani's work is the historical data that he has unearthed on just what a good investment US equities have been over a very long period. Look at the graph on the left. That shows the percentage of periods between 1802 and 1996 when stocks have outperformed bonds. As you can see, in any one year there has been 60 per cent chance that equities will do better than bonds; over any 10-year period it has been 80 per cent. And over any 30-year period it is virtually 100 per cent.

Now look at the graph on the right, which looks at the total real return on US equities over very long periods. (That is the capital gain or loss, plus or minus dividend income, adjusted for inflation and compounded.)

The astonishing thing here is that returns are extremely stable at around 7 per cent. Take the 1802-1870 period: it was exactly 7 per cent. Take 1871 to 1925: 6.6 per cent. Take 1926 to 1997: 7.2 per cent. Only if you take shorter periods do you get notably different results. If you take 1966 to 1981, returns were negative. And finally, take 1982 to 1997 and returns have been nearly 13 per cent.

The common-sense conclusion from this would, I suppose, be that the last 15 or so years have been compensating for the poor returns of the previous 15 years. Things are, so to speak, back to normal. But it also means that anyone whose memory of the market lasts only 15 years will have had what has been historically a very unusual experience: double the usual returns. One could go on and argue that the experience of the market since the end of 1997 (i.e. outside the period in the study) has further stretched share prices beyond their long-term trend.

Dr Wadhawani develops the argument much further, looking at various justifications for the present level of US share prices and testing each of these. But perhaps the big lesson of both these studies is simply that, while equities are and will remain the best place for people to hold savings over a very long period, timing entry into and exit from any share market is of overwhelming importance. Is investment just timing, then? Perhaps. But maybe also patience.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Birmingham City (F)	8,337m (1,422m)	-3,668m (1,125m)	-7.23p (2.52p)	-	-	-
Discus Group (F)	1,453m (1,316m)	68.8m (76.3m)	11.5p (12.5p)	3.5p (2.9p)	06.04.99	01.03.99
Dudley Junction Group (F)	13,427m (13,425m)	2,304m (1,651m)	11.53p (8.13p)	2.5p (2.0p)	12.04.99	25.01.99
FI Group (F)	108,88m (71,23m)	7,54m (4,31m)	2.22p (1.66p)	0.53p (0.43p)	07.04.99	25.01.99
Hutton Holdings (F)	97,32m (84,21m)	0.3m (5.74m)	11.84p (8.22p)	11.30p (2.1p)	18.03.99	25.01.99
Wega Group (F)	12,872m (11,989m)	1,428m (8,805m)	6.10p (5.49p)	2.13p (1.91p)	25.02.99	25.01.99

(F) - Final (F) - Interim

BUSINESS £

Savings of up to 50%* for business travellers at hotels throughout the UK

FOCUS

From **£29** Per room per night

- Special winter rates across 85 hotels.
- Branded restaurants for all tastes
- Superior room options at many locations
- Leisure clubs with swimming pools at most hotels

Only £29

Bolton
Liverpool
Walsall

Only £39

Belfast
Dover
Grimsby
Havant
Leeds/Selby
Peterborough
Portsmouth
Sheffield
Stevenage
York

From £59

London - Heathrow
London - Gatwick
London - Bloomsbury
London - Regent's Park
London - Kensington
London - Hampstead

Only £49

Aberdeen
Ashford
Basingstoke
Birmingham
Birmingham Airport
Birmingham City
Brighouse
Cardiff
Cardiff City
Carlisle
Colchester
Coventry

Only £59

Aylesbury
Baxildon
Bexley
Brentwood
Bristol
Cambridge
Chester
Dublin
Farnborough
Glasgow City

Only £49

Croydon
Derby/Burton
Edinburgh
Epping
Fareham
Glasgow Erskine
Gloucester
Hull
Ipswich
Lancaster
Leeds/Bradford
Leicester

Only £49

Lincoln
Manchester
Plymouth
Rugby/Northampton
Stoke on Trent
Swansea
Swindon
Teesside
Taunton
Wakefield
Warrington/Runcom
Washington

Only £59

Glasgow Airport
Guildford
Haydock
Hemel Hempstead
High Wycombe
Hull Marina
Leeds
Maidstone/Sevenoaks
Manchester Airport
Milton Keynes

Only £49

Newcastle upon Tyne
Norwich
Nottingham City
Nottingham/Derby
Preston
Reading
Rochester
South Mimms
Southampton
Southampton/Eastleigh

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Prices shown are per room based on one night stay, single or double occupancy, fully inclusive of tax and service. Offer available at hotel hotels between 14 December 1998 to 28 February 1999 (excluding 31 December). All reservations subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. Bookings to be made via Central Reservations prior to arrival at hotel. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion. *50% discount represents savings against rack rate. Posthouse Hotels reserves the right to suspend this special offer at any time without prior notice. Any confirmed or guaranteed bookings cancelled after 2pm on day of arrival will be liable to a non-refundable charge of the first night's terms. All unconfirmed bookings will be released at 2pm on day of arrival. *Then part of the Posthouse brand.

Posthouse

See your travel agent or call

0800 40 40 40

Quoting reference: 'FOCUS 2'

A division of Forte Hotels.

By Month				By Week				By Month				By Week			
High	Low	Price	Chg	High	Low	Price	Chg	High	Low	Price	Chg	High	Low	Price	Chg
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -3.0-2.9%															
634	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
442	282	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
635	285	400	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12	0.0	12	12	12	0.0
476	386	466	0.0	184	180	184	0.0	12	12	12					

[illegible][illegible]

MAIN MOVERS									
RISERS					FALLS				
PRICE(%)	CHG(%)	%CHG	PRICE(%)	CHG(%)	%CHG	PRICE(%)	CHG(%)	%CHG	PRICE(%)
Seares	318.50	25.80	8.1%	Global	134.00	-0.50	-0.3%		
Therapeutics	214.50	15.00	7.1%	Morgan Grant	184.00	-7.50	-4.1%		
US Biotechnology	244.00	16.00	6.6%	Alkerm	141.50	-9.00	-6.4%		
Life Sports	34.00	1.00	3.0%	Cardinalis	128.00	-17.50	-13.7%		
Johnson	936.00	44.00	4.8%	Standard Gen	742.00	-64.00	-8.6%		
Medco Durrum	359.00	16.50	4.6%	Fortress	08.47	-0.33	-3.9%		
Smith Barney	337.00	20.00	6.0%	Biodynia Int	702.50	-72.50	-10.3%		
Metabank	382.50	13.00	3.5%	Hess of France	53.50	-0.50	-0.9%		
American Air	582.00	18.00	3.2%	Jacobs	599.50	-6.00	-1.0%		
Fluorchem	631.00	15.00	2.4%	Wall Street	1006.00	-100.00	-9.9%		
MARKET LEADERS									
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm									
Stock	Vol.	Black	Vol.	Black	Vol.	Black	Vol.	Black	Vol.
IBM	24,941	15,826	IBM	14,406	10,306	IBM	10,306	IBM	10,306
BP Amoco	32,720	21,521	BP Amoco	14,406	10,306	BP Amoco	10,306	BP Amoco	10,306
Yankee	34,000	21,521	Yankee	14,406	10,306	Yankee	10,306	Yankee	10,306
First Interstate	14,406	10,306	First Interstate	14,406	10,306	First Interstate	10,306	First Interstate	10,306
United States	14,406	10,306	United States	14,406	10,306	United States	10,306	United States	10,306
Telecom Corp	14,406	10,306	Telecom Corp	14,406	10,306	Telecom Corp	10,306	Telecom Corp	10,306
FTSE 100 INDEX									
HOUR BY HOUR									
Open	Close	High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low	Open	Close
9:00	3006.4	3006.4	3006.4	15:00	3006.4	3006.4	3006.4	15:00	3006.4
9:30	3006.4	3006.4	3006.4	15:30	3006.4	3006.4	3006.4	15:30	3006.4
10:00	3006.4	3006.4	3006.4	16:00	3006.4	3006.4	3006.4	16:00	3006.4
LEISURE & HOTELS									
Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price
100	28.5	-0.5	0.4	100	28.5	-0.5	0.4	100	28.5
101	28.5	-0.5	0.4	101	28.5	-0.5	0.4	101	28.5
102	28.5	-0.5	0.4	102	28.5	-0.5	0.4	102	28.5
103	28.5	-0.5	0.4	103	28.5	-0.5	0.4	103	28.5
104	28.5	-0.5	0.4	104	28.5	-0.5	0.4	104	28.5
105	28.5	-0.5	0.4	105	28.5	-0.5	0.4	105	28.5
106	28.5	-0.5	0.4	106	28.5	-0.5	0.4	106	28.5
107	28.5	-0.5	0.4	107	28.5	-0.5	0.4	107	28.5
108	28.5	-0.5	0.4	108	28.5	-0.5	0.4	108	28.5
109	28.5	-0.5	0.4	109	28.5	-0.5	0.4	109	28.5
110	28.5	-0.5	0.4	110	28.5	-0.5	0.4	110	28.5
111	28.5	-0.5	0.4	111	28.5	-0.5	0.4	111	28.5
112	28.5	-0.5	0.4	112	28.5	-0.5	0.4	112	28.5
113	28.5	-0.5	0.4	113	28.5	-0.5	0.4	113	28.5
114	28.								

Low Stock		Price		Qty		P/E Date		Low Stock		Price		Qty		P/E Date		
1	Low Stock	1124	-0.5	65	120	11	5	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
2	Low Stock	250.0	0.0	2.9	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
3	Low Stock	185	0.0	64	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
4	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
5	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
6	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
7	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
8	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
9	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
10	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
11	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
12	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
13	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
14	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
15	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
16	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
17	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
18	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
19	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
20	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
21	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
22	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
23	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
24	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
25	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
26	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81	120	12	12	100	11	110	12	12	120	11	110	12
27	Low Stock	167.5	-0.0	81												

Line	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	P/E	Close	Line	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	P/E	Close
1	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	131	55	Scotch	120.0	0.0	116	12.2	123.50
2	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	132	56	70 Tons	103.75	-0.75	29	80.2	45.78
3	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	133	57	41 Universal Salt	55.1	+0.10	12	14.2	42.78
4	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	134	58	223 Wmco Inc	40.5	0.00	19	31	54.00
5	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	135	59	128 Warner Ind	151.0	-0.00	40	74	160.00
6	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	136	60	136 Warner Ind	42.5	-1.0	47	42.0	140.00
7	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	137	61	35 Westmont Pwr	383.0	-4.0	44	141	138.00
8	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	138	62	390 Wmco Inc	118.5	-1.5	23	20.3	20.00
9	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	139	63	17 USR Corp	20.0	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
10	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	140	64	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	2.925	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
11	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	141	65	1024 AET Inc	20.0	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
12	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	142	66	449 Cable & W Comm	181.5	-25.5	18	142	191.00
13	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	143	67	177 Cable Telecomm	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
14	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	144	68	1197 Cable Telecomm	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
15	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	145	69	282 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
16	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	146	70	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
17	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	147	71	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
18	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	148	72	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
19	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	149	73	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
20	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	150	74	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
21	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	151	75	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
22	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	152	76	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
23	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	153	77	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
24	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	154	78	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
25	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	155	79	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
26	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	156	80	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
27	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	157	81	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
28	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	158	82	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
29	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	159	83	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
30	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	160	84	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
31	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	161	85	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
32	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	162	86	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
33	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	163	87	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
34	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	164	88	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
35	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	165	89	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
36	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	166	90	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
37	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	167	91	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
38	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	168	92	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
39	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	169	93	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
40	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	170	94	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
41	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	171	95	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
42	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	172	96	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
43	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	173	97	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
44	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	174	98	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
45	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	175	99	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
46	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	176	100	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
47	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	177	101	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
48	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	178	102	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
49	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	179	103	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
50	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	180	104	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
51	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	181	105	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
52	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	182	106	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
53	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	183	107	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
54	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	184	108	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
55	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	185	109	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
56	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	186	110	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
57	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	187	111	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
58	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	188	112	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
59	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	189	113	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
60	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	190	114	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
61	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	191	115	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
62	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	192	116	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
63	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	193	117	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
64	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	194	118	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
65	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	195	119	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
66	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	196	120	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
67	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	197	121	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
68	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	198	122	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
69	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	199	123	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
70	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	200	124	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
71	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	201	125	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
72	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	202	126	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
73	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	203	127	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
74	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	204	128	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
75	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	205	129	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
76	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	206	130	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
77	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	207	131	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
78	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	208	132	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
79	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	209	133	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
80	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	210	134	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
81	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	211	135	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
82	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	212	136	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
83	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	213	137	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
84	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	214	138	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
85	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	215	139	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
86	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	216	140	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
87	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	217	141	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
88	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	218	142	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
89	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	219	143	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
90	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	220	144	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
91	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	221	145	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
92	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	222	146	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
93	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	223	147	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
94	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	224	148	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
95	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	225	149	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
96	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	226	150	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
97	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	227	151	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
98	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	228	152	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
99	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	229	153	343 Egeco	105.5	0.00	12	12.0	12.00
100	3M	112.5	-0.5	65	12.9	230	154	343 Egeco	105				

270	1000000	445.5	-10.2	0.2	43.9	7779
160	Nicardo Sp	228.5	8.0	3.6	19.7	2642
150	RM	594.5	-7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0

RECENT ISSUES

270	1000000	445.5	-10.2	0.2	43.9	7779
160	Nicardo Sp	228.5	8.0	3.6	19.7	2642
150	RM	594.5	-7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0

RECENT ISSUES

Category	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400</
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--------

Category	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400</
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--------

373	Sears Ro	633.5	-23.5	0.4	84.8	1814	J&F Telecom	237.5	-1.5
758	Sears Ro	1207.5	22.6	0.7	50.5	7502	Quantica	100.5	-3.0
107	Shaw's Mkt	25.0	-2.0	0.3				82.0	0.0

528 Shared Int	1337.5	-42.6	0.5	56.2	2936
38 Stock Group	42.5	0.0	2.8	11.0	1600

source: **Bloomberg**
www.bloomberg.com

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Price reflects the official closing mid price. Sector movements based on the FTSE-350. The yield is the latest 12 month yield.

share price. The proforma P/E ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptional items. Other details: By right, a 10% dividend; 5% suspended; 5% partly paid on all shares. Other details: By right, a 10% dividend; 5% suspended; 5% partly paid on all shares.

to Bloomberg. Prices are Bloomberg Generic.

Other SP

can interrupt at any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying in plus a 4-digit 'code' from the

For assistance in setting up your Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 1-800-4200 (during business hours).

plc, London EC2A 4PJ. 0891 calls cost 60p per minute

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

_____ + _____

100

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

Banks mauled as Brazil spooks FTSE

EQUITIES SUFFERED ONE of their worst poundings as Brazil's currency crisis hit the stock market.

What amounted to a devaluation caused widespread concern around the world, and Footsie was in ragged retreat from the opening. At one time it was off 287.1 points, but in busy two-way trading the index managed to reduce its deficit to 183.5 points, closing at 5,850.1.

The index began the year at 5,566.1. Its best close last week was 6,148.8, although it hit a new trading high of 6,195.6.

Despite the slump there were indications that institutional investors, who seemed happy to chase shares in a mad scramble last week, had not completely faded from the scene. The late rally stemmed from determined buying at the knockdown prices produced by the earlier panic.

Not only blue chips were in the firing line: the mid cap index crashed 102.7 points to 4,874.4 and the small cap 31.2 to 2,108.6. Both finished well above their lows. Government stocks rose by up to 75p.

Trading was again heavy, with share turnover topping 1.1 billion.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

BPB, following a share buyback at 186p, was the most traded stock with turnover put at 34.5 million. The shares fell 8.7p to 188p.

Banks suffered the severest mauling as the market fretted over their exposure to Latin America, and those with long memories recalled the crashing impact of past regional defaults. Standard Chartered lost 84p (after 96p) to 742p and National Westminster Bank 105p (after 128p) to 1,066p.

HSBC was off 125p to 1,628p and Lloyds TSB 43p to 821.5p. The

gloom encompassed other financials, with insurer Royal & Sun Alliance 39p down at 483p and Prudential down 55p at 899p.

In such an unfriendly environment, the high flying telecom shares were also sounding the retreat, with Vodafone 35p down at 1,039.5p and Energis 31p at 1,380p. But high flying Colt Telecom, seen by all as particularly vulnerable to any darkening climate, restricted its fall to 19p at 1,018p.

Dixons resisted the slump, gaining 44p to 968p, a peak, as its results were in line with best expectations. Whitbread, with a moderately cheerful trading statement, put on 8p to 775.5p, but Allied Domecq continued to suffer from its sober Christmas trading message, falling a further 19p to 497p. The Allied group again unsettled Bass, off 18.5p to 786.5p, and Scottish & Newcastle, 28.5p at 684.5p.

Zeneca, the drugs group, was ruffled by stories that its would-be partner, Astra of Sweden, could be selling the company to Roche, the big Swiss pharmaceutical group, was said to be on the verge of mounting a bid for Astra, a development

that would leave Zeneca standing alone and forlorn at the altar. The shares fell 71p to 2,673p.

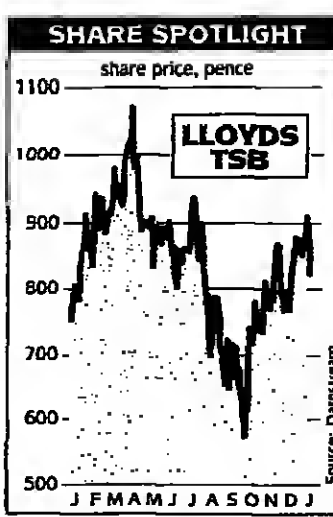
Sears, on the sale of its credit card business, gained 25p to 310.5p. Retail entrepreneur Philip Green

ON-LINE, an obscure little computer games business, says it is not involved in any corporate talks, but even so it is comfortably leading the 1999 stock market race.

The shares climbed a further 12p to 57.5p as against 16.5p on Monday. Two directors, chairman Michael Hodges (50,000) and Clem Chambers (100,000), have each "reluctantly" sold shares to improve liquidity. Two years ago the price topped 100p.

still hovers: he has bid 340p a share although he has not won the backing of the board. WH Smith, said to be expanding its Internet retailing, was 20.5p higher at 537p.

Encouraging trading statements helped Selfridges 6.5p better to



213.5p. Limelight 3p to 33.5p and education group Nord Anglia 14p to 142.5p. IT group Vega was lifted 30p to 485p.

But trading gloom again took its toll: Morgan Crucible collapsed 79p to 183.5p, engineer Cirqual, with sales down 12 per cent and would-be bidders retreating, 68.5p to 134p; scarves maker Worldwide 20.5p off at 56.5p and tea group Whittard

21.5p to 69.5p. Caution from software group Pegasus lowered the shares 37.5p to 382.5p.

It was ironic that on such a fraught day the Guardian Royal Exchange takeover story was

TAKEOVER rumours swirled on the undercard, with T Clarke, a construction group, and Zotefoams, a chemical operation, in the firing line. Clarke rose 14p to 112.5p and Zotefoams 10.5p to 90p. Both shares are well below their best levels.

The rumoured predators were said to be foreign; Clarke, it was claimed, was in the sights of a continental group, while Zotefoams had attracted an American suitor.

given another whirl. It had little impact on the shares, lifting them just 0.5p to 337.5p. It was suggested that AXA, the French group seen at the head of the bidding queue, was on the verge of launching a fundraising exercise to back a deal.

AXA was said to be raising £1bn, which could tie in with suggestions that it intends to focus on overseas, with the Pru taking on domestic operations. Talk has been that the bid price will be around 400p. GRE is said to have rejected a 360p shot.

Abbot, an oil services group, tumbled 24.5p to 141.5p in late trading as rumours circulated that its proposed merger with Norway's Prosage had been called off.

In busy trading ArimaScan, the electronic "nose" group, edged forward 0.25p to 10.25p, its highest since a rescue rights issue was made last year. The revamped group, thought to be attracting institutional interest, reports results later this month. KS Biomedix rose 18p to 314.5p in a late response to progress on its osteoarthritis drug.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, in a takeover tussle with Marston Thompson & Evershed, did itself little good by reporting first-quarter sales below expectations: the shares fell 17.5p to 447.5p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.13 billion
SEAQ TRADING: 88,030
GILTS INDEX: 115.98 +0.81

Investment: If the IT group's directors are taking profits, should investors as well?

FI board shares £15m windfall

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THE BOARD of FI Group yesterday shared a windfall of more than £15m when a group of directors took advantage of the computer services company's strong share price performance to offload 4.7 million shares.

Hilary Cropper, the chief executive who personally pocketed close to £5.5m from the sale, defended the decision. "Some of us have a lot of our wealth tied up in that business," she said, adding that the directors still had a combined 6.5 per cent stake. They have also agreed not to sell any more shares for 12 months.

The sight of directors selling large chunks of stock did not rattle investors, who scrambled to snap them up. It was understood that it took Warburg Dillon Read, FT's broker, just five minutes to place the shares with institutional investors.

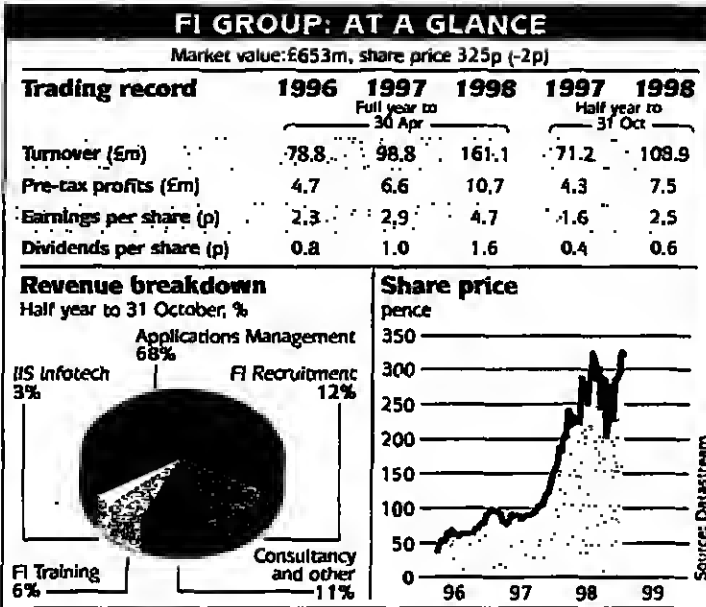
Nevertheless, investors might reasonably ask whether they too should be taking profits in FI. The company has been one of the best-performing information technology stocks on the London exchange, doubling in value last year. It is also among the most highly rated, trading on an eye-popping 63 times expected full-year earnings.

Not that FI is giving investors any cause for concern. Results for the six months to 31 October, released yesterday, showed pre-tax profits rising by 75 per cent to £7.5m on turnover up 53 per cent to £109m.

The results included a contribution from IIS Infotech, the Indian computer group FI bought at the end of 1997 and which is already bringing in business. In the half, FI signed a £20m three-year IT outsourcing contract with London Electricity that requires some work to be done outside the UK to save costs.

Lower wage costs in India also boosted FI's margins, which rose to 6.5 per cent, up more than a percentage point in the half year.

Meanwhile, Ms Cropper sounded upbeat on FI's growth prospects. She believes that over time its largest customers - who account for 70 per cent of revenues - will entrust more of their IT spending to FI. Work on the millennium bug, which yields 15 per cent of revenues, will fall off, but it will be replaced by preparations for the introduction of the euro in the UK and for electronic commerce.



Hilary Cropper: 'No barriers to growth' in FI's markets

The company is also planning to set up a division to implement Enterprise Resource Planning software - the packages that link different parts of a company, such as accounting, billing and stock management - for its major customers. It is also eyeing expansion into the United States or continental Europe, although Ms Cropper stressed that the company would not make another acquisition before the year 2000 at the earliest.

Ms Cropper dismissed fears of a slump in demand after the year 2000. "There are no barriers to growth in this market at this time," she said. House broker Warburg agreed, upgrading its full-year profit forecast by almost 5 per cent to £16.1m.

Roger Phillips, an analyst at investment bank Granville, said: "Every key indicator of the company's financial performance showed an improvement. Any concerns the City has now relate to the valuation of the shares as opposed to the company's performance."

With its long-term contracts and solid forward order book, analysts think that there is little chance of FI disappointing the market in the short term. However, few in the City are brave enough to raise the shares, down 2p yesterday at 325p, as a buy.

Mr Burke, the office clerk who got to the top

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS
BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE YORKSHIREMAN who steered Bristol & West out of its building society status and into the arms of Bank of Ireland two years ago is standing down as chief executive after 34 years with the same institution.

John Burke, 56, is one of a dying breed: a man who worked his way up from office clerk to boss of a financial institution with assets of over £13bn. Mr Burke says this career path is "sadly out likely to happen too often in the future". Yesterday he said he was standing down as chief executive to become vice-chairman of Bristol & West. It's a long way from Mr Burke's first job, in the Plymouth office he joined in November 1964. "There was a big gap in the office between the secretary at the back and the counter - they thought I was a big enough lad to fill it," he recalls.

When he became the society's youngest-ever branch manager at Truro, Cornwall, in 1968, the society had assets of just £40m. Mr Burke moved to head office in 1978 and got the top job in 1993, steering the society through demutualisation and subsequent sale to the Bank of Ireland four years later. He will be succeeded by Jeff Warren, finance director of Bristol & West since 1992.

IN Great Railway Journeys on BBC2 on Tuesday night, presenter Michael Portillo returned to Spain - the land of his ancestors - and was the very picture of relaxation. He journeyed in great comfort, at speeds of 300kph, in modern, shiny trains, in a trip which took in Granada, Seville, Madrid and Salamanca. He told us, clearly proud of Spain, that if the TGV-type train was more than five minutes late at Madrid everyone got all their fare back. The train was, in the event, five minutes early.

In the UK, of course, we have learnt not to expect such speed, comfort or compensation from our privatised system. Who is to blame?

Ian Gilmour, the ex-Tory cabinet minister, had no doubts. He wrote in the *Evening Standard* in October 1995: "When he [Portillo] was a junior minister of transport he was the chief architect of the ridiculously complicated, hideously expensive and largely unworkable scheme for the privatisation of the railways."

MOHAMMED AL-FAYED's former spokesman Michael Cole has joined the board of a small Loo-doo-based public relations outfit, Lehmann Communications, to help grow its presence in the luxury goods and services sector.

The bouffant-haired former BBC presenter told me yesterday that he remains on good terms with the Harrods boss, but resents being referred to by the media as simply "the press officer at Harrods".

"I was a director of the company and I was deeply involved in the company's business," he insists. Mr Cole adds with typical modesty: "Obviously I know everyone worth knowing, really."

MICHAEL FOOT, former Labour leader, today opens the first Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee Shop, the progenitor of what is planned to be a 2,000-strong worldwide chain.

Although widely acknowledged as a top quality coffee, the Jamaican variety has been difficult to buy in the UK until now, says the chain's managing director, Geoffrey Holland.

The shop at 18 Maddox Street in London's Mayfair features Jamaican culture and lifestyle.

Selfridges trading update brings some cheer to the high street

BY NIGEL COPE, Associate City Editor

Selfridges' shares rose on relief that the group had not become another victim of the high street blues. But the figures do not quite represent the "turnaround" being claimed in some quarters yesterday.

A key factor in the sales growth was the re-opening in the autumn of the beauty hall, which is the reason perfume sales have been so fragrant. Selfridges' redevelopment programme will finish this year with the completion of the menswear department overhaul on the ground floor. After that, the figures will be truly like-for-like and comparisons may be a little more onerous.

John Richards at BT Alex Brown described Selfridges' figures as "relatively reassuring" but pointed

out the boost from the new beauty hall. He also notes that underlying net asset value is 214p, compared with yesterday's close of 213p, up 6.5p on the day.

That might seem to offer support but a more significant factor is the near 7 per cent new held by the property group British Land. That has buoyed the share price as speculation persists that John Riblat's group may mount a bid or push for a sale and leaseback of the Oxford Street site.

On BT Alex Brown's full year forecast of £16m the shares trade at a forward multiple of 20. Analysts say that on fundamentals the stock is overvalued and that bid prospects are based more on hope than expectation.

There will be far worse trading statements that yesterday's update from Selfridges but that is no reason to chase the shares.

Limelight looks fit to rebound into profits

SHARES GOING UP yesterday were few and far between but Limelight, the Manchester-based makers and retailers of fully-fitted kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and conservatories, managed a 3p rise to 33.5p.

The company, which trades under various names - Sharps, Moben, Dolphin and Kitchens Direct - issued a trading statement saying simply that trading remained tough in the final quarter of the year, but Limelight had performed in line with expectations in 1998 and the current year had begun reasonably well.

In the January sale period - traditionally the peak season - sales were 8 per cent up on last year: quite an achievement at a time when many high-street retailers are feeling the pinch. However, the company insists it is still too early to take any firm position on the outlook for trading after January.

Some of the success is down to

increased advertising and promotion, but it is likely that falling mortgage rates are encouraging home owners to plough some of the money they save on mortgages back into home improvements.

Limelight's shares have not been spectacular performers since they were floated at 189p three years ago, and the path has generally been downward. But Andrew Stanway, who stepped up to the post of chief executive after a management shakeup, has succeeded in taking out costs and sold the loss-making Portland Windows.

Richard Ratner, of brokers Seymour Pierce, now rates the shares a speculative buy. He forecasts a rebound from a £12m loss after restructuring costs in 1997 to a profit of £2m and earnings of 5.5p a share last year, rising to £11m and 7.80p in 1999.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES				
Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6062
Australia	2.6134	2.6112	2.6112	1.5857
Austria	19.462	19.381	19.356	11.762
Belgium	56.890	56.737	56.571	34.483
Canada	2.231	2.2305	2.2305	1.5295
Denmark	10.498	10.473	10.443	6.3615
Euro	1.4063	1.4063	1.4063	1.7171
Finland	8.945	8.945	8.945	5.0746
France	2.7565	2.7495	2.7491	1.571
Germany	4.8082	4.8082	4.8082	2.7804
Greece	12.780	12.780	12.780	7.7475
Hong Kong	11.004	11.004	11.004	0.6751
Ireland	27.902	27.902	27.902	1.6575
Italy	18.22	18.22	18.22	113.04
Japan	162.2	162.2	162.2	3.8950
Malaysia	6.2763	6.2763	6.2763	0.4010
Mexico	17.402			1.8807
Netherlands	3.1070	3.0993	3.0973	1.8497
New Zealand	3.0507	3.0482	3.0453	1.8497
Norway	12.900	12.900	12.900	7.5073
Portugal	202.67	202.67	202.67	171.10
Saudi Arabia	6.1954	6.1954	6.1954	3.7635
Singapore	2.7802	2.7774	2.7760	3.6405
South Africa	10.0455	10.0455	10.0455	6.0900
Spain	234.60	234.60	234.60	142.00
Sweden	12.871	12.841	12.795	7.7974
Switzerland	2.2408	2.2310	2.2258	1.5538
US	1.6495			1.0000

INTEREST RATES				
UK	6.00%	Discount	5.25%	Repo(Avg)
Base				3.40%
European Central Bank				0.50%
O/N Margins 0.25%				
O/N Facility 2.75%				
Repo	3.00%	Prime	7.75%	Discount
		Fed Funds	4.50%	1.00%
		Sweden	5.94%	3.25%
Prime	6.75%			

BOND YIELDS				
Country	3 mth	1 yr	2 yr	5 yr
Australia	4.67	0.01	4.60	0.03
Belgium	3.03	0.03	2.97	0.03
Canada	4.80	0.01	4.78	0.08
France	3.18	0.01	3.10	0.03
Germany	3.18	0.01	3.10	0.03
Italy	3.02	0.01	3.00	0.03
Japan	0.28	0.01	0.28	0.01
Netherlands	3.18	0.01	3.10	0.03
Spain	3.00	0.02	2.90	0.03
Sweden	3.63	0.02	3.53	0.04
Switzerland	1.27	0.09	1.22	0.12
UK	5.50	0.00	5.45	0.00
US	4.30	0.00	4.24	0.00

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open Interest
Long Gilt	Mar-99	119.51	119.94	119.00
5 Yr Gilt	Mar-99	109.11		64075.00
German Bund	Mar-99	116.59		103531.00
Italian Bond	Mar-99	116.56	115.05	63.00
Japan Gov Bd	Mar-99	131.32	131.10	38038.00
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-99	94.53	94.55	181447.00
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	94.53	94.58	193364.00
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.84	96.84	21640.00
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.84	96.84	375.00
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.84	96.84	21496.00
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.84	96.84	67972.00
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.84	96.84	67781.00
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.84	96.84	40845.00
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.84	96.84	
FTSE 100	Mar-99	5843.00	6005.00	5760.00
				174438.00

OTHER SPOT RATES				
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling
Argentina	1.6495	1.0000	Oran	0.6350
Brazil	2.1609	1.3100	Pakistan	83.894
China	13.657	7.2794	Philippines	64.001
Czech Rep	50.558	30.651	Poland	5.9052
Egypt	5.6305	3.4135	Qatar	6.0050
Ghana	386.81	295.0	Russia	1174.00
India	352.24	217.79	South Korea	1936.5
Hungary	70.071	42.480	Taiwan	53.092
Indonesia	13855.6	8400.0	Thailand	60.784
Kuwait	0.4978	0.3018	Turkey	53.0397
Nigeria	151.75	92.000	UAE	6.0586

	Overnight Bid Offer	1 week Bid Offer	1 month Bid Offer	3 months Bid Offer	6 months Bid Offer	1 year Bid Offer
Treasury Bills			5.77 5.67	5.60 5.50		
LIBOR		6.01 6.01	6.12 6.12	5.88 5.88	5.64 5.64	5.43 5.43
Domestic Depos	5.00 6.25	6.00 6.25	6.06 6.03	5.84 5.78	5.59 5.56	5.16 5.13
Overseas Depos	6.00 6.31	6.00 6.31	6.06 6.03	5.84 5.78	5.59 5.56	5.16 5.13
Biggest Bank Bills			5.83 5.73	5.63 5.53	5.37 5.27	
3 Month CDs			5.84 5.59	5.74 5.66	5.44 5.34	5.25 5.18
6 Month CDs			4.87	4.83		
9 Month CDs	3.21 3.21	3.21 3.21	3.18 3.18	3.13 3.13	3.13 3.13	3.10 3.10

www.bloomberg.com/uk

Source: Bloomberg

SPORT

Golf: As the game goes global, players increasingly want to match themselves against the world's elite

New look
as tour
rakes in
big money

EVER SINCE just eight professionals gathered at Prestwick in October 1860, the concept of the best players in the game playing against each other to decide a worthy champion has been a familiar one in golf. But so has tradition, and though the 128th staging of the Open Championship, which returns to Carnoustie for the first time in 24 years, will remain the centrepiece of the 1999 season, change is in the air.

The European Tour, which gets under way in Johannesburg today with the South African PGA Championship, has a new look in two ways. Firstly, the official currency from now on will be the euro, with a conversion to pounds sterling set for the season at today's exchange rate. For each Briton who might be suspicious of the change, there is a Bernhard Langer who expected nothing less.

Secondly, there is the introduction of a new level of tournaments all with a first prize of \$1m, or £630,000 or \$800,000 euros: big money in anyone's currency. Three World Championship events have been introduced to cater for the players' requests for more opportunities for the best to meet the best, a concept thoroughly endorsed by sponsors and television.

If the idea is an old one, and was achieved on the links of Scotland until the turn of the century and on the fairways of the US Tour for most of the 1900s, recently only the four major championships have seen a gathering of the world's best players.

The development of the game outside of the States, with Europe becoming a force in the Ryder Cup and, last month, the International team defeating the Americans in the Presidents Cup, finally has brought a recognition from the Americans that the game is going global.

If the feeling is that their idea of the best meeting the best is fine as long as it is on US soil, with two of the new events in the States, then the third, the American Express World Championship, which will decide the US money list as well as the European Order of Merit, will be played at Valderrama in November.

It was Greg Norman who sparked the tours from around the world to come together in unusual co-operation when he proposed a World Tour of elite events in 1994. Where Norman missed the point is that golf does not need any more 30-man events with no half-way cut to concentrate the mind. All that really needs to happen is for other events to follow the lead of the US Players' Championship in making sure the top 50 or more on the world rankings are among a full-field entry.

One of the new events falls into Norman's trap, the NEC World Invitational bringing together Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup players at Firestone, the home of the new defunct World Series. Greg Turner, the New Zealander, will play in the event because he was picked as a wild card for the International Presidents Cup team but does not believe he should be. "I'm in the tournament as a player ranked 70th in the world when others, who are more deserving, are missing out," he said.

BY ANDY FARRELL

"At a time when the difference between being 30th in the world and 130th is smaller than it's ever been, we are looking at creating this elitist group where the fields are limited," Turner added.

Each event, however, has specific qualification criteria allowing players to emerge from the European or other tours to work their way up the ladder. Much the most eagerly anticipated of the new events is the Andersen Consulting World Matchplay Championship, which will feature the world's top 64 in straight head-to-head action, a concept that has not existed since the USPGA went to strokeplay in 1958.

The qualification for the event has added an impetus to the start of the season. Nick Faldo (57th), Per-Ulrik Johansson (63rd), Robert Karlsson (67th) and Andrew Coltart (69th) are among those tried to make sure of a place at La Costa next month. Due to poor results at the start of last season, Karlsson has been told he can improve his world ranking points average by sitting at home for the next six weeks. Whether it will be enough is another question and the Swede is not taking the chance.

Faldo is showing signs of trying to make the team on merit. The Ryder Cup will be played in September at the Country Club of Brookline, where Faldo lost the US Open in a play-off to Curtis Strange in 1988. "It is one of the great sporting events," Faldo said of the Ryder Cup. "You want to be there."

The 41-year-old six-times major winner is taking advantage of the absence of Colin Montgomerie (resting), Darren Clarke (fitness training) and Lee Westwood (honeymoon) by teeing up at Houghton today. "Step one is to get back to winning, step two is to get back to winning majors and if you are doing that you'll get in the Ryder Cup," he said.

Winning the World Cup with England and finishing fourth in the Australian Open has rekindled his enthusiasm. "I'm as keen as mustard. You hate being down where I am when you have been where I have been. But I just keep believing that after everything I've been through I'll be a better player than ever before. That's the scary thing for everyone else. My trump card now is experience."

With the European Order of Merit now including the US Open and USPGA as well as the three World Championship events, the chances of a player coming out of the pack, as Roman Rafferty did in 1989, to win the title have decreased. Equally, it will now reflect performances by Europeans in the world's biggest tournaments. Expect another Montgomerie, Clarke, Westwood shoot out.

As for Justin Rose, the 18-year-old is taking up the first of what should be many invitations in Johannesburg this week. Quite how many he receives will be up to how he performs. The safety net of the Challenge tour remains but he may find himself overtaken by Sergio Garcia, who is expected to turn professional after the US Masters.



Sweden's Per Ulrik Johansson splashes out of a bunker during yesterday's Alfred Dunhill pro-am in Johannesburg. Allsport

EUROPEAN TOUR SCHEDULE

JANUARY	APRIL	JULY	OCTOBER
14-17 Alfred Dunhill South African PGA, Johannesburg	8-11 US MASTERS, Augusta, Georgia	1-4 Murphy's Irish Open, Druids Glen, County Wicklow	9-12 One 2 One British Masters, venue tba
21-24 South African Open, Stellenbosch	22-25 Peugeot Spanish Open, venue tba	7-10 Standard Life Loch Lomond, Loch Lomond, Scotland	16-19 Lancôme Trophy, St Nom-la-Bretteche, Paris, France
28-31 Heleneken Classic, The Vines, Perth, Australia	29-31 May Flat and Fila Italian Open, Circolo, Turin	15-18 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, Carnoustie, Scotland	24-26 RYDER CUP, Brookline, Boston
FEBRUARY	MAY	AUGUST	NOVEMBER
4-7 Benson and Hedges Malaysian Open, Kuala Lumpur	6-9 French Open, venue tba	22-25 TNT Dutch Open, Hilversum	7-10 Alfred Dunhill Cup, St Andrews, Scotland
11-14 Dubai Desert Classic, Dubai Creek	13-16 Benson and Hedges International, The Oxfords	28-31 Volvo PGA Championship, Wentworth, Surrey	14-17 Clio World Match Play, Wentworth, Surrey
18-21 World Golf Championship Andersen Consulting Match Play, La Costa, California	21-24 Deutsche Bank-SAP Open TPC of Europe, St Leon Rot, Heidelberg	5-8 Volvo Scandinavian Masters, Barseback, Malmö, Sweden	21-24 Belgacom Open, Royal Zoute, Belgium
MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
4-7 Portuguese Algarve Open, venue to be announced	3-6 English Open, tba	2-5 Canon European Masters, Crans-sur-Sierre, Switzerland	4-7 World Golf Championship Strokeplay, Valderrama, Spain
11-14 Turespaña Masters, venue tba	10-13 German Open, Sporting Club, Berlin		11-14 Johnnie Walker Classic, venue tba
18-21 Moroccan Open, Royal Agadir	17-20 US OPEN, Pinehurst, North Carolina		18-21 World Cup of Golf, Mines Resort, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
25-28 Madeira Island Open, Santo da Serra	24-27 Compaq European Grand Prix, De Vere Stately Hall, Northumberland		18-23 European Tour qualifying school finals, San Roque and Sotogrande, Spain

THE CONTENDERS

ERNIE ELS

Has the busiest international schedule of any of the leading players and paid the penalty when he was struck down by a back injury last June. Consequently suffered a disappointing middle and end to what had started out as an outstanding season. Down to fifth on the world rankings but keen to challenge Tiger Woods for the No 1 spot and add to his two US Opens. Just married and will spend much of the summer at his new home at Wentworth.



LEE WESTWOOD

Another newly west who is currently honeymooning in the Caribbean. Deserves the break after winning seven times last year and 10 times within 13 months. At No 8 on the world rankings has overtaken Colin Montgomerie as the leading British player and will want to end the Scot's six-year tenure in the European No 1 spot. But getting into contention in the majors will be his highest priority.



TIGER WOODS

Too many seconds and thirds last year and too few victories have rubbed away some of Woods' mystique as a phenomenon, but added credence to his belief that he is now consistently a better player. Masters and the Open - if he can beat Mark O'Meara - remain his best chances of adding to his solitary major but the new World Matchplay Championship should bring out his flair for one-on-one combat.



THE PRETENDERS

DARREN CLARKE

Has taken time to learn the winning habit but proved he has done so to brilliant effect by winning the Volvo Masters last November. Enjoying fatherhood, he has given up smoking and gone on a fitness drive in an attempt to convert more of his near-misses, as at the Open at Royal Troon in '97. Feels 66-1 is far off the mark for his chances at Augusta after finishing eighth on his debut in the Masters last year.



DAVID DUVAL

The Westwood of the US tour, on which he has already claimed the season-opening Mercedes Championship by nine strokes to record his eighth win since October 1997. But just as he struggled to break through, has yet to prove himself in the majors. Led the Masters briefly with three holes to play last April but overtaken by O'Meara's late charge.



JESPER PARNEVIK

Under that cap with the turned peak and in between munching volcanic sand hides a ball striker of rare quality honed on the testing fairways of the US Tour over the last few seasons. Will split his schedule on both sides of the Atlantic after re-joining the European Tour, a requirement for him to make the Ryder Cup team. Three chances to win the Open in the last five years have only convinced him he can become the first Swede to win a major championship.



The curse of irresponsible expectation

AT THE risk of upsetting some in this dubious trade it is proposed that all sports reporters, including those who broadcast by television and radio, undertake the revolutionary experiment of discreet appraisal.

To be sure, this might startle and confuse the clientele, yet 1999 would be a better and brighter year if we could get through it without being imprudently advised that genius is upon us.

If we could start by setting promise in perspective, there might come a day when emerging talent is not put at risk by descriptions that twitch and quiver with irresponsible expectation.

While it is idle to suppose that any teenager who is quickly successful in sport can avoid the sort of



KEN JONES

attention given to Michael Owen in last summer's World Cup finals and Justin Rose in the Open golf championship, it can lead to difficulties in development that some have found insurmountable.

Recently, on Match of the Day,

the BBC pundit and former Liverpool defender Mark Lawrenson stated that Owen, at 19 years old, is already a phenomenon of football.

There is some truth in that, but unfortunately it may lead the public to consider Owen complete in football education when, in fact, he still has things to master.

As for Rose, it was not so much that the roof caved in on him after outscoring many of the world's best golfers at Birkdale as that he did not live up to quite ridiculous media anticipation. Comparisons between Rose and a true phenomenon of golf, Tiger Woods, were as daft as some made between Owen and Pele, who was only 17 when he appeared for Brazil against Sweden in the 1958 World Cup final.

A great deal of attention was given last week to Jermaine Pennant, the 15-year-old prodigy who is registered with Arsenal after being brought up in the game by Notts County.

There are some important side issues involved here - Notts County's agreement with Arsenal cannot conceal their disappointment - but there is risk in Arsenal's investment.

Nobody can ever be sure whether young players will live up to their potential. I do not know exactly what the figures are, but the majority of apprentices in English football fail to make it as fully fledged professionals.

Only people who look upon an interest in football as evidence of retarded development will be

oblivious to the notion that a huge future in the game is being predicted for West Ham's 17-year-old midfielder Joe Cole, who made his first-team debut as a substitute in the third round of the FA Cup against Swansea City.

Cole is just one of an emerging generation who promise much for the future of English football. Improved coaching gives them a better chance than the many who fell by the wayside after representing England at youth international level.

The trouble is that media attention may be detrimental to their progress. Few will be blessed with Owen's temperament and the solid family background from which he benefits. Some will disappear from

view, either because of injury or failed personality.

I was mentioning this the other day to someone who gave up football management when the pressure to achieve became too great for him.

"I think the worst thing about the job was telling youngsters that they weren't going to make it," he said. "Most of them took it well but the parents were a different matter. I remember mothers in my office pleading for their sons to be kept on."

In their eagerness to publicise the announcement of sporting youth, some people descend into a twilight of reason and language.

Gustav Sebes, who put together the great Hungarian side of the 1950s, once spoke about his belief that a 15-year-old Ferenc Puskas

would rise above others in his generation and become one of the great figures in football history.

The interesting thing about this was that others were considered ahead of Puskas in natural ability. "But none of them had his nerve," Sebes said. "On the worst day in his life he would never drop below a high standard. At that age Puskas's consistency was remarkable and, of course, he lived up to all the hopes that were held out for him."

We shall have to wait and see whether something similar will be said about those who are presently causing a great deal of excitement in English football. It would help if people who report their efforts do so with more circumspection than is at present evident.

Henri

TENNIS

Botha

Jordan re
enjoy fam

Henman talks up Open prospects

TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE

TIM HENMAN is confident of his chances in next week's Australian Open, despite making a losing start to his preparations.

Henman was beaten 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 by Mark Philippoussis in his first match in Melbourne's Kooyong Classic, following a defeat in the Qatar Open final on Sunday to the German qualifier, Rainer Schuttler. But he believes he is playing consistently enough to challenge for the year's opening Grand Slam.

"I think my game since Wimbledon has been most consistent. I've beaten most people," the 24-year-old said, "but now that Pete Sampras has pulled out of the Open - he's one guy I haven't beaten - if I can continue playing the way I am then I will be difficult to beat."

Henman's best achievement in a Grand Slam to date was losing to Sampras in last year's Wimbledon semi-final. He has changed his routine this year after playing in the last two finals in Sydney.

"I would have arrived on Tuesday and played that day in Sydney and then gone and played five matches as I have done in the last two years, and that takes a lot out of you," Henman said.

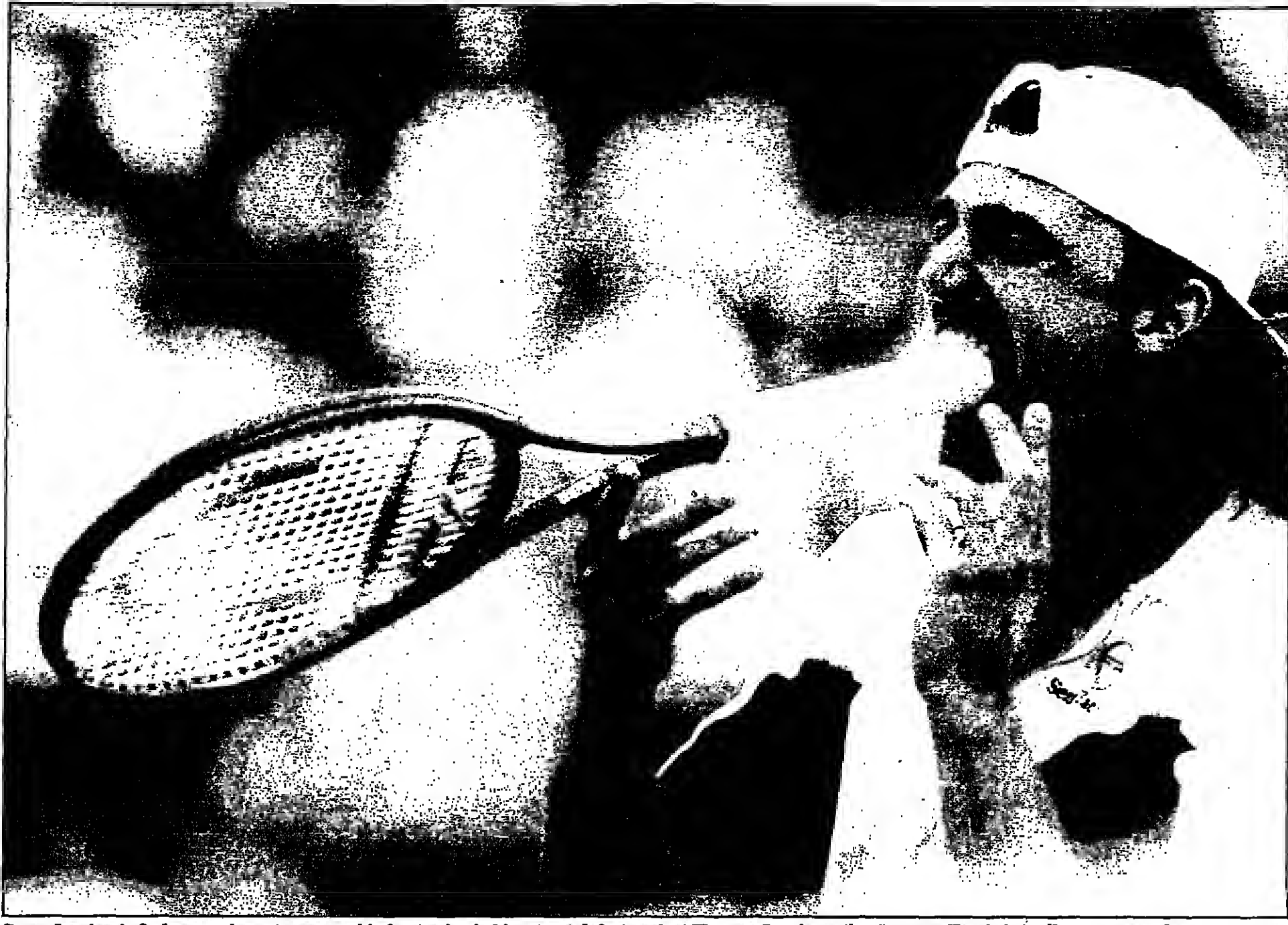
"To go into the Australian Open I would like to be a little fresher, so that was my reasoning in playing here before the Australian Open. I think playing in the last two Sydney finals is perhaps a little bit too much with regards to preparation for the Australian Open."

Henman could be top-seeded for the first time in an ATP Tour event in Britain next month. The British No 1 will take prime billing at the Guardian Direct Cup in Battersea Park, London, from 22 to 28 February, if he maintains or improves his present world ranking of seven.

Henman is the highest-ranked player to have confirmed his entry for the Battersea tournament.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the Russian holder who is ranked 11 in the world, and Karol Kucera, the Slovakian ranked eighth, both announced yesterday they too would be competing in the London event.

It means that five of the



Goran Ivanisevic finds a novel way to express his frustration in his 7-6, 7-6 defeat against Thomas Enqvist at the Kooyong Classic in Melbourne yesterday. Allsport

world's leading 11 players will be on view at Battersea since Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, who is ranked nine, and the former Wimbledon champion, Richard Krajicek, the Dutchman ranked 10, are also among the entries.

Henman's possible top seeding at Battersea is an indication of the remarkable progress he has made in the past 12 months. At the tournament last year, he was ranked 21 in the world and not among the eight seeds,

although he did beat Krajicek, then seeded fifth, in the first round before falling to Kafelnikov in three sets in the third.

Also in Australia is Steffi Graf, the former world No 1, who continued her comeback yesterday by beating the American Serena Williams to reach the quarter-finals of the Adidas International in Sydney.

Graf played only a handful of tournaments in 1998 because of a series of injuries, primarily wrist, ankle and knee prob-

lems, that prevented her from playing for most of 1997 as well. She missed last year's Australian Open through injury and has not won a Grand Slam title since the 1996 US Open.

However, she came back strongly late last year, and began this year ranked No 9 after winning two of the last three tournaments she entered and 12 of her previous 13 matches, including wins over the leading three players in the world. Graf continued that winning

form against Williams yesterday, weathering a second-set wobble and coming back from a break down in the final set, to beat the teenager 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 and reach the last eight of the Australian Open warm-up, where she will face Serena's older sister, Venus.

Venus Williams, ranked No 5, could prove Graf's toughest opponent in the lead-up to next week's Grand Slam tournament. She overpowered the South African player Amanda

Coetzer to earn a meeting with Graf.

Graf is understandably eager to improve on her recent progress. "It's been a while since I started a year without any injuries. It's a great feeling," the 29-year-old German said.

"The wrist and knee, it's all fine. It's a completely different way to approach the game. I'm able to work on my condition. That hasn't been the case for a long time."

Of yesterday's win over the

younger Williams sister, Graf said: "I played a very good first set, but I had a total meltdown in the second. I started to make an extreme amount of mistakes. I felt very flat suddenly. But to come back was good. I'm happy I was able to raise my game at that point."

The Australian Open champion, Petr Korda, began legal proceedings yesterday challenging the right of the ITF to appeal against his lenient treatment for a positive drugs test.

Baynes makes move to Salford

RUGBY LEAGUE

THE WIGAN prop Neil Baynes has boosted his hopes of regular first-team action by joining Super League rivals Salford. Baynes has had few senior opportunities at Central Park, making just 12 substitute appearances in four years.

But the 21-year-old forward made a big impact for Wigan at Salford four months ago, scoring his first try for the club with his first touch of the ball after stepping off the bench.

Baynes, who has agreed a two-year deal with Salford, was one of five props chasing a first-team place at Wigan, with competition from Neil Cowie, Terry O'Connor, Tony Mestrov and the new signing Brett Goldspink.

The former Great Britain captain Garry Schofield, who made three Challenge Cup final appearances at the height of his career, could find himself leading Doncaster on the Wembley trail later this month. The 33-year-old former Hull, Leeds and Huddersfield stand-off has been targeted as the first of a number of major signings by the First Division club following a successful takeover.

Doncaster have been rescued by Westferry Ltd, the company that also recently took over the town's football team, and the directors yesterday submitted their business plan for approval by the Rugby Football League board.

Schofield, who was sacked as player-coach of Huddersfield last summer, is currently playing rugby union with Aberavon but is expected to lend his vast experience to reversing the ailing fortunes of Doncaster.

The Doncaster coach, Colin Maskill, is hoping to sign Schofield in time for the Challenge Cup tie against the Oldham amateur club, St Anne's, on 31 January.

First Division Hull KR have completed their overseas quota with the signing of utility forward David Luckwell, who made 57 first-grade appearances with the Canterbury Bulldogs.

Botha wary of Tyson

BOXING

BY KIERAN DALEY

FRANCOIS BOTHA predicted yesterday that the world will see the old Mike Tyson again this weekend, when the pair meet in Las Vegas.

By "old", Botha was referring to the brutally intimidating Tyson who took boxing by storm when he became world champion at the age of 20.

However, while Tyson is an overwhelming favourite to beat the South African in his first fight since he was disqualified for hitting Evander Holyfield in June 1997, Botha believes he can upset the odds.

Botha is 7-1 with the Las Vegas bookmakers to upset Tyson's comeback, but he is used to flying in the face of reason. In a freak accident at 16 he fell into a hole while gathering corn and mangled his right arm. Nerve damage was so severe that he still does not enjoy full feeling in the limb. His little finger does not fully close and for years he boxed mainly with his left arm.

He missed the Olympics

when South Africa was barred because of apartheid and has warred with the boxing authorities throughout his career. When he became International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion in 1995 he was stripped of his title a few weeks later after testing positive for steroids which a doctor had prescribed for an injury.

"All of a sudden he has lost all his money," Botha said of Tyson. "He wants something again. That might make him more angry than he was in the past. It might make him come out harder to get it back again."

"I think Mike Tyson is the best heavyweight out there," said the South African. "I want to fight the best. If you beat the best, you are the best."

He admitted that he can not get the intimidating vision of Tyson, coming at him from the first bell, out of his mind.

"Tyson's rushing up trying to catch me," Botha said. "I've got to do my thing. I have to make the right moves. This guy's coming to take my head off in the first three rounds. He'll try to get it in the first. That round will be brutal, but I know I am going to get through it. If I do the fight is mine."

Henry Wharton insisted yesterday that he will have no regrets about retiring even though he had a triple title fight just three weeks away. He was to have challenged Crawford Ashley for the European, Commonwealth and British light-heavyweight titles on 6 February.

Wharton's retirement has surprised both Frank Maloney, his promoter, and his trainer Gary Atkin. Atkin said: "The strange thing is he's never been in better shape."

But the 31-year-old from York is convinced that he has chosen the right moment to retire. "I'm not prepared and I was never going to be prepared for the

Ashley fight," he said yesterday. "I don't feel I have the things that I once had in my career and I don't want to fight again. I will have no regrets. How many boxers do you know who have retired after a win? Everybody carries on too long."

Wharton's last fight was a one-title light-heavyweight bout with the Ukrainian Konstantin Okhray in York in September. Wharton accepts that after that contest, which ended in a bruising sixth-round victory, he should have immediately retired. "The doubts had been there for almost 12 months, but after the Okhray fight as soon as I left the ring I knew it," he said.

During Wharton's 31-fight career he held the British, Commonwealth and European super-middleweight titles, but lost his three career fights, all on points, in challenges for the world super-middleweight title. He was beaten by Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank in 1994, and Robin Reid three years later.

Jordan ready to enjoy family life

THE FAT lady sang yesterday and the sport of basketball will never be the same again as Michael Jordan confirmed his retirement.

"I played it to the best I could play it," Jordan told a packed news conference at the United Center, the Chicago Bulls' home court. "I tried to be the best basketball player I could be. I've had a great time. I'm just going to enjoy life and do things I've never done before."

He appeared with a bandage on his right index finger and said he said he severed a tendon while trying to cut a cigar and would need surgery. Word of Jordan's retirement broke late on Monday night, but he had refused to comment until yesterday. After leading the Bulls to their sixth championship in June, Jordan had said he would make an announcement on his future only

BASKETBALL

once the National Basketball Association lock-out ended.

"I thought about saying just two words, 'I'm gone', but I thought I owed my fans a lot more than that," he said, with his wife, Juanita, at his side. "My life will take a change." He added he looked forward to being a parent and would "live vicariously through my kids," whether or not they played basketball. Jordan, asked if he would definitely never return, said: "I never say never." But he added: "I'm very secure in my decision."

Manchester Giants have resigned Kevin St Kitts in time to play in the Budweiser League top-of-the-table clash against Sheffield Sharks on Saturday. He replaces Danny Craven, who will miss the rest of the season because of injury.

Engine swap has Pavey sweating

THE MORE difficult the Dakar Rally becomes the more Simon Pavey enjoys it. Just two kilometres into the 340-mile 11th stage to Nema, the engine of his British-made CCM motorbike gave a death rattle and seized.

"I eventually got a lift back to the bivouac with some American missionaries, found the spare engine after a struggle, then hired a pick-up to take me back to the bike," said Pavey, who proved his worth in last year's rally by finishing the leading non-factory supported rider.

Working in baking heat in six inches of soft sand, it took him six hours to swap engines with the help of a Tuareg boy named Jobe. "The exhaust was held on by a spare throttle cable," Pavey said, "but we got it going. My worry then was would the fuel truck still be there?"

By a fluke, it was. After that, "it was just 188 miles of empty

RALLYING

BY MAC MCDIARMID

in Nema, Mauritania

desert, at night, with the bike falling to bits underneath me." Pavey arrived at Nema at 2:30am exhausted but curiously fulfilled. Ahead lay the notoriously punishing 304-mile 12th stage to the beautiful Saharan oasis of Tichit. It would almost certainly be hell and, just as certainly, Pavey, despite being well behind the leaders, was expecting to love every minute.

The Frenchman Richard Sainct (BMW) is the overall leader with a total time of 45hr 4min 17sec. The highest placed Briton is the KTM-riding John Deacon, who is two and a half hours behind Sainct in eighth position. The rally ends on Sunday in Saint-Louis.

Results, Digest, page 27

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person in a hat and coat riding a dark horse. The rider is looking back over their shoulder. The background is dark and indistinct.

Scarlet Pimpernel wins the Walton Hurdle at Kempton to earn a 20-1 quote for the Triumph Hurdle with Coral

Julian Herbert/Allsport

FIRST SHOW

■ Jamie Spencer, the teenager who won last year's Irish 1,000 Guineas on Tarascon, rode his first hurdles winner at Kempton yesterday on Magic Combination in the Royal Mail Conditional Jockeys Novice Handicap Hurdle.

■ Wetherby today is subject to a 7.30am inspection after yesterday's failed to determine whether the frost would come out of the ground in time. Musciburg also inspect today at 3.30pm, but tomorrow's card should get the go-ahead.

horse	W	L	S	T
W. Parnell	7/2	4/1	7/2	4/1
De Jure	7/2	4/1	7/2	7/2
De Dactone	11/1	8/2	4/1	9/2
Active Player	11/1	9/2	5/1	9/2
Unlabeled	8/4	7/1	8/1	7/1
Simple Affair	7/1	8/4	8/1	8/4
Unlabeled	7/1	16/1	16/1	16/1
Concussion View	16/1	16/1	16/1	16/1
Unlabeled	25/1	16/1	25/1	6/1
See Approach	33/1	25/1	33/1	25/1
Unlabeled	25/1	33/1	33/1	25/1
Unlabeled	33/1	25/1	40/1	33/1
Unlabeled	40/1	40/1	33/1	33/1
Unlabeled	100/1	50/1	100/1	50/1
Unlabeled	100/1	50/1	100/1	50/1

4/25 - a winner for the male, places 1, 2, 3
 N William H R L Lockwood S Stanley T Tate

1

2.10 **LILLO LUMB CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (3)**
£5,000 added 3m 11f 11yds Penalty Value £4,182

1 **2P-FS** CLASS OF NINETEENTY (8) (B) (The Earl Oxford) 11 Wds to 0.1. A McCoy
2 **2P-FS** MALMOOD CASTLE (294) (C) (Mrs) (Huntingdon) 11 R Alder 9.1. R Alder 9.1.
3 **40-62P** FLUPPANCE (10) (C) (Simon Harcourt) 11 N Gaselee 9.1. 1. R Dunscombe 9.1.
4 **40-62P** RILINGTON (12) (C) (J) (Pethers) 11 Gifford to 0.1. 1. P Hise 9.1.
5 **40-62P** STAMFORD (10) (C) (Mrs) (Huntingdon) 11 Wds to 0.1. 1. G Bradley 9.1.
6 **FS-31** SARAS DOLIGHT (10) (C) (D Jackson) 11 Nicholson 1. 1. N Parnell 9.1.
7 **5-430U** KOPS PROMISE (18) (C) (A Vickers) 11 Linton 1. 1. R Alder 9.1.

Minimum weight 10.1lb. True handicaps shown. Kops' Promise set 10.1lb.

BETTING: 5/2 Class of Ninety, 3/1 Saras Dolight, 5/2 Saltham, 6/1 Malmoood Castle, 7/1 Fluppance, 4/1 Rilmington, 20/1 Kops Promise.

1956. Indian Army 10.1 lb C Kaisee 10.1 lb (April) 10.

FORM GUIDE

Class Of Ninety: Winner from 715 between at Warwick 28 months ago. Lightly raced since and looked in need of race when, 3-100-lw, wadedmired 159, tailed off 5th of 7 to Noley Miner at Ludlow (pm handic, good) last month. Difficult to assess, but seems on soft ground to have a chance of making a comeback in last term. Goes.

Saras Dolight: In good form, but has been out of the picture for some time. Very much in mud and cannot be discounted after latest win from this track at Farnwell last time. Fluppance: Out of luck in 10 starts since novice days, in 7F. Fair 2nd to Foley Flood in first term before a bit of a hiccup in Nov, but fell when heavily placed at Farnwell last time. Capable of a few off days, but has been out of the picture for some time.

10 added 2m Penalty

[illegible]

to bumpers. Hurdles debut but shaped nicely when 4th

[illegible]

17

1.50 (pm novice hurdle)
1. SCARLET PRINCEPS *C* Llewellyn 3-1
2. Nuvellino *R* Dunmorey 3-2
3. Masmadama *M* Al Fitzgerald 7-2
Also ran: 11-4s Wilem Park 4-1, 1-5 Lullin
(8th), 20-1 Paganini (9th), 30-1 Saire
Bard, 40-1 Saire Boulevard, 50-1 Danong
Orwell, 11-4 Mags.

10 min, 5-2, 6-3, 30 (Winner bay gelding
by *Mr* J. J. O'Connell, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997
by *N* Tiviston-Davies & Cheshamster
to Richard Harbord, 1998; SAZOO; £200; £200
£180 Hdp; £1350; GSP: £237; NR: River Best)

1.20 (pm handicap chase)
1. BUCKLAND *chase* *R* Fenton 11-4
2. Mifordock *R* Dunmorey 7-2
3. Quoango *M* N Fenton 11-2

Also ran: 5-2 tab Robins Pride (8th), 9-2 Sher-
in Bay.

5 min, 5-2, 12 (Winner chestnut gelding by
Pleasantide out of Belong, trained by O'Connell
at Robertsgrove for Mrs M H Tebbutt);
Time: 2:45; 5-30, 33-40; 10; 12; 13; 15; 16; 17; 18;
NR: Native Crown.

2.55 (pm 17yds handicap hurdle)
1. ATAVISTIC *R* Widgey 12-1
2. Smith Tow *M* R Glynn 16-1
3. The Breeze *M* Wiggins 16-1
4. Arclele Chanter *R* Dunmorey 7-2 fav
Also ran: 5-1 Be My Moll (8th), 7-1 Sophie May
(8th), 9-1 Welsh Skip, 10-1 Native Field, 21-1 Eu-
roville, 44-1 Silver Hill, Royal Oak, 50-1
Dunmorey, 50-1 Squires Hall, 14 H. Maddy, Tim,
30-1 Seabird The Day, 65-1 Grugglet's Point

RESULTS

[illegible]

WOLVERHAMPTON

[illegible]

Giant leap for Smith's peace of mind

Britain's foremost high jumper has just made his first attempt in six months to clear the bar - he failed but is delighted. By Mike Rowbottom

SHORTLY BEFORE three o'clock yesterday afternoon in the empty, echoing vastness of Birmingham's National Indoor Arena, Steve Smith failed to clear 2.10 metres in the high jump. He could not have been happier.

Just over five months earlier, a freak training accident had left Britain's Olympic bronze medalist unable to move his head or neck. This was his first effort over a bar since then - one small jump for Steve Smith, one giant leap for his mind.

As he approached his take-off with a full run-up, the only sound was the crescendo of his footsteps followed by a clanging and clattering as he sent both the bar and one of the supports flying. He lay still for a moment on the landing bed before flipping himself upright with the panache that has become his trademark in a seven-year international career. Three more jumps, the last of them at 2.20m, reinforced the message: he was back in business.

"There was a real sense of relief," he said. "I felt like a high jumper again. This was my first jump for almost six months and I was using a new run-up for the first time, so the whole thing felt very weird. But after this I know I can be very, very competitive again this season."

The details of the accident on 7 July remain horribly clear to him. It happened in an ordinary jump at the Wavertree track in his native city of Liverpool, two days before he was due to compete in the Oslo Grand Prix. "As soon as I landed on my back it was really painful," he said. "I couldn't move off the landing bed. But I thought that maybe it was just a matter of having to click something back into place. I hadn't ruled out Oslo."

Twenty minutes later, still prostrate and with paramedics stabilising his neck, he had ruled out Oslo - but was still thinking in terms of a month or two out of action. It was not until the following morning as he lay in a surgical collar at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, that the severity of his position sank in. "They had to give me morphine for the pain," he said. "I was so sleepy that my consultant



Jump of joy: Steve Smith back in business in Birmingham's National Indoor Arena yesterday after recovering from a disabling injury that threatened his athletics career

David Ashdown

had to wake me up to give me a diagnosis. He spouted all this jargon, and then disappeared."

"Malcolm Brown, the British team doctor, was with me at the time, so I said to him, 'What does all that mean?' And he told me I would not be jumping for the rest of the year at least. I was just devastated."

In one alarming incident he had been turned from an athlete who stood at the top of the world rankings to an anxious 25-year-old wondering if he would ever be an athlete again.

Smith was in hospital for 10 days, but spent longer worrying over a succession of diagnoses. At first, it was

thought he had torn into-spinous ligaments and suffered a prolapsed disk. A second opinion presented a different picture: no ligament tear, and a disk which may have been

His mind was taken off his own predicament in August, when he travelled to the European Championships as non-playing British team captain. But the frustrations arose

10 minutes to realise that he could not face following the Games on television. "I thought to myself, 'You don't want to be watching this'," he said. By this time, however, he had

rector of jumps for PAS, the Lottery-distributing body for British athletics. Bidder, who worked for most of the 1990s coaching in the Australian Institute of Sport, started Smith's rehabilitation programme, backed up by frequent physiotherapy.

A couple of months ago many of Smith's lingering concerns over his condition were allayed by another member of the AIS, Peter Stanton, who was in England to advise UK Athletics 98 on a physiotherapy programme. Stanton told Smith he had rotated his vertebrae in the accident - three had turned one way, two the other. Smith's team of physios are

now concentrating on keeping them all in line.

Smith will return to the same Birmingham arena at the end of this month for the AAA's indoor championships, before turning his thoughts to the World indoor and outdoor championships later this year. But the real goal lies beyond.

"I am dedicating myself 100 per cent to doing well at the 2000 Olympics," he said. "I want to be in Sydney having done everything I possibly could to give myself a chance of winning."

Yesterday marked a significant step towards that ambition.

'I am dedicating myself 100 per cent to doing well at the 2000 Olympics. I want to be in Sydney having done everything possible to give myself the chance of winning'

prolapsed before the accident.

"It was a really confusing time," Smith said. "I kept thinking: If it's not clear what happened, what was to stop it happening again in the same way?"

again the following month as English athletes, including his main domestic rival Dalton Grant, swept up the titles at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. It took Smith about

decided to draw a metaphorical line underneath the events of the summer. He left Liverpool to live and train in Birmingham under the guidance of Tudor Bidder, the technical di-

No sanctions on Salt Lake City

THE International Olympic Committee has ruled out imposing any sanctions against Salt Lake City officials in connection with the Olympic Games' biggest corruption scandal, an IOC investigator said yesterday.

"The commission will not recommend any action against Salt Lake City," said Jacques Rogge, a member of the IOC panel investigating allegations of bribery in the city's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Games. "There is no action to be taken."

Rogge, meanwhile, confirmed that up to 12 IOC members have been implicated in the inquiry but rejected calls for the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to resign as "ridiculous". He also said the IOC was prepared to investigate charges of corruption in other host city election campaigns, including claims that Sydney officials were approached for bribes during their successful bid for the 2000 Summer Games.

Rogge, a Belgian member of the IOC's executive board, said the six-man investigative panel had considered sanctions against Salt Lake City officials connected with the 2002 bid. However, he said the possibility was ruled out after the Salt Lake organising committee's leading two

OLYMPIC GAMES

officials, president Frank Jolkik and vice president Dave Johnson, resigned last week. "The people who were in the bid are no more," Rogge said. "They took the actions they thought were needed."

The head of the bid committee, Tom Welch, is also no longer associated with the Games. He resigned as president of the organising committee last year after being charged in a separate, private matter.

"The only action we could have discussed was against the people in the bid committee who were still on the organising committee," Rogge said. "As they have resigned, there is definitely no need for action. This does not imply any judgement on their behaviour at this stage."

Rogge said he understood that "around a dozen" IOC members had been implicated in the Salt Lake investigation. Letters were sent to those members this week demanding an explanation.

The IOC panel meets on 23 January in Lausanne, Switzerland, to conclude its findings, and will make recommendations to the full executive board the following day.

Samaranch has said that any members found guilty of corruption will be removed.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Ben Ainslie won the World Laser Championship in considerable style at Port Phillip Bay yesterday. The 1996 Olympic silver medalist could have afforded to sit out from the last of the 12-race series, leaving the Atlanta Games gold medalist and the man he has beaten four times since then, the Brazilian Robert Scheidt, and Sweden's Karl Sunesson to fight it out for second and third.

But he chose to sail that final race "because the waves were getting quite steep and the wind was picking up, and I thought it would be a bit of a blast. It was good to be out there racing." He capped a few times and finished a lowly 18th, but it was typical of a man who seemingly has an insatiable appetite for competition.

The 21-year-old, now based in Lynton and who celebrates his 22nd birthday on the fifth of next month, needed only fourth place in the 11th race of the series to win on a countback. Third gave him the world title outright. Despite being 15th at the end of the first leg, sailed in a south-westerly gusting over 20 knots, he soon pulled up to the vital fourth place.

Ainslie was working the, short, steep waves to good effect, his fitness programme paying dividends and two months of training in Australia being rewarded. So, for good mea-

SAILING

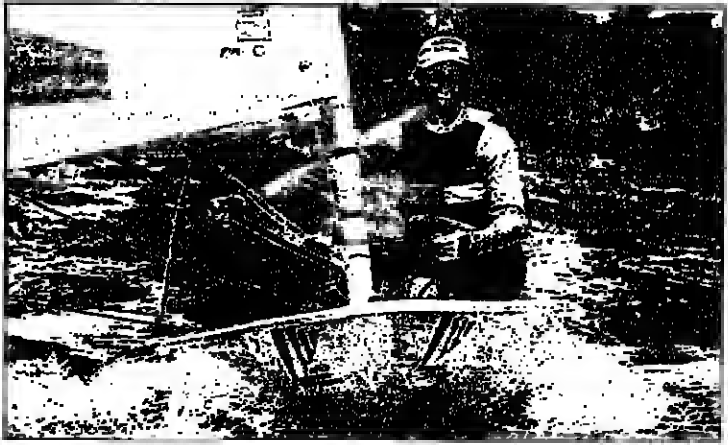
BY STUART ALEXANDER
in Melbourne

sure, he overtook the American Mark Mendelblatt on the last leg to finish third behind Scheidt and Sunesson, and he knew the game was his.

It was only in 1995 that Ainslie was winning gold in the World Youth Championship. A year later he was wearing Olympic silver, but in both the 1996 and 1997 Laser World Championships, in Cape Town and Chile respectively, he was third. Last year he won the world single-

hander championship, sailed in Lasers, beating Robert Scheidt in Dubai. He went on to win the European Championship in Portugal and was voted the World Sailor of the Year by the sport's governing body, the International Sailing Federation.

He now takes a bit of a rest, but may appear at some regattas in New Zealand, an invitational in Dubai, before looking forward - with perhaps a try at the two-handed Star keelboat along the way - to the pre-Olympic regatta at Sydney in September. But he still has to go through the UK trial system at the beginning of next year to earn his place to represent Britain at the Games. And he



Ben Ainslie is all smiles during yesterday's final race

is well aware that Britain has strength in depth in the Laser class, Andrew Simpson's fifth place in Melbourne giving them two in the top six.

Taking time out from the adjacent race course to congratulate Ainslie was the Soling skipper, Andy Beadsworth. An 11th in the first race of the day was enough to maintain his sixth position overall. But, with the Australian Cameron Miles scoring two wins, Beadsworth slipped to seventh at the end of the day.

Iain Percy remains fourth overall in the Finn Gold Cup, and Britain's other top single-handers, Shirley Robertson, had a worst-so-far ninth in the opening race in the Europe, but third place in the second race also kept her fourth overall.

Four British crews have made it through to the 25-strong finals of the 49er Skiff World Championship, which starts its 11-race series today. They are Andy and Ian Budgen, Tim Robinson and Ian Walker, Paul Brotherton and Neal McDonald, and the current national champions, Ian Barker, partnered with the Australian Daniel Phillips.

Britain is also the current leader of the competition for the International Olympic Committee Cup, presented by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, for the top-scoring nation in the seven Olympic-class World Championships.

Brave Jim Peters dies at 80

THE MARATHON legend Jim Peters, who caught the imagination of the public at the 1954 Empire Games in Canada when he staggered round the last lap, has died aged 80.

"Jim was a class runner when marathon running, unlike today, was unfashionable," said David Bedford, the international race director of the London Marathon and a former 10,000 metres world record holder. "He trained harder than most - often 100 miles a week - and believed in the work ethic with his thousands of miles run in plimsols. My first memories of him were from newspaper pictures showing him collapsing when in sight of the finish. Few athletes push themselves to such exhaustion."

Peters entered the Vancouver stadium around three miles ahead of his rivals but dehydration had taken its toll. He fell six times and his English team-mates at trackside could not help for fear that he would be disqualified. They were finally able to go to his aid when it was clear he was not going to cross the line. The race was won by the Scot, Joe McGhee, but Peters' efforts are fixed in the minds of millions who watched it on Movie News.

Peters, who had broken the world record four times previously, retired from athletics after the Games - "It cost me my killer instinct," he said. *Obituary, Review, page 7*

Prutour proves a big draw

THE PRUTOUR in May will be shorter by two days than the inaugural nine-day race last year, but it will be tougher than ever, the organisers warned when the route was unveiled in London yesterday.

With around £100,000 in prize money on offer, the Prutour claims to be the world's fourth-richest race, and the itinerary ensures that the riders will earn every penny. The 1,178-kilometre (733-mile) race has been upgraded by the world governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale, who have also increased its allocation of world ranking points. Under UCI rules the duration has had to be reduced to seven days because of the Prutour's enhanced status, but it should draw class opposition from Europe, making the racing harder.

CYCLING

BY ROBIN NICHOLL

Three of the 18-team places have been filled already by high-quality squads. Chris Boardman and his Australian team-mate, Stuart O'Grady, who were respectively second and first last year, return with their French team Credit Agricole.

US Postal Service, whose riders include Lance Armstrong, who recently won his fight against cancer, will be out to improve on their team victory last May.

With the inclusion of the Dutch team Rabobank, the challenge to the British hopes could be awesome, given the European racers' more intensive programme.

The Prutour opens with a race around the Thames Embankment and Whitehall on 28 May, and ends with another circuit race in Princes Street, Edinburgh, on 29 May.

In between lies some exacting racing, with the Bristol to Swansea leg on day four described by the race director, Alan Rushton, as "the hardest we have ever had. This will be one of the toughest races ever held in this country."

On British hopes for success, Boardman said: "Despite the overall strength in depth of this year's race, we will come with the same approach as last year."

1998 PRUTOUR SCHEDULE: 25 May Westminister circuit race; 24 May Medway to Portsmouth and Portsmouth time-trial; 25 May Winchester to Bristol; 26 May Bristol to Swansea; 27 May Swansea to Birmingham; 28 May Liverpool-Blackpool; 29 May Cardiff to Edinburgh circuit race.

Maier to race despite injury

THE DOUBLE Olympic champion Hermann Maier will ignore a back injury in order to compete at Wengen and Kitzbühel, the two toughest downhill events on the Alpine circuit.

The Austrian had been hoping to take a break from the World Cup to rest his back before next month's World Championships in Vall, but yesterday said he had decided to carry on in order to protect his lead in the overall standings.

"The back is not so good but not so bad either... we're working on it," Maier, who won a shortened downhill in Wengen last year, said. "I'm racing Wengen for sure and Kitzbühel next weekend if it does not get worse."

"Normally it would be better to rest but I'm in pretty good shape, except for my back."

SKIING

Maier said that he will also race two slaloms, a discipline he usually avoids, to collect combined points.

The Norwegian all-rounder Kjetil Andre Aamodt, the 1994 overall champion and Maier's closest rival, is 228 points behind the Austrian in the overall standings, but could easily close the gap over the coming week if Maier were not to compete.

Maier now plans to be in the start but for every race leading up to the World Championships, including the two slalom events, starting with the demanding Lauberhorn downhill on Saturday. With pain-killers and muscle relaxants already a regular part of Maier's pre-race preparations, the reigning World Cup cham-

pion is also resorting to more traditional Austrian remedies. He has been undergoing massages several times a day and having therapy with hot sands applied to the back.

Maier has won six races this season, including a giant slalom victory in Adelboden on Tuesday. But with Saturday's downhill and Sunday's slalom making up the season's first combined event, Maier is well aware that Aamodt, who is equally skilled in both the speed and technical events, could erase his advantage almost overnight.

Maier, whose aggressive style more suited to the downhill and super-giant slalom, rarely competes in slalom but was still good enough to win last year's combined in Wengen.

TOMORROW



RICHARD WILLIAMS
IN LAS VEGAS
SIN CITY CLEANS
UP ITS ACT

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 14 January 1999

McKenzie slams 'whingeing' foreigners

THE FORMER Everton and Leeds United forward Duncan McKenzie has spoken out against "moaning" foreign players who earn a living in Britain. McKenzie himself has experienced playing in a foreign country, having spent a year in Belgium with Anderlecht in 1976, prior to his transfer to Everton in December of the same year. But he admits to being "staggered" that overseas players over here are complaining about conditions at their clubs.

FOOTBALL

Pierre van Hooijdonk has been on strike at Nottingham Forest, Paolo Di Canio refused to return to Sheffield Wednesday because of "stress" and "depression" and the Blackburn midfielder Sebastian Perez has said he wants to return to France because the cold weather is affecting his daughter's health.

But McKenzie feels that players should rise above such complaints and has sided with

Paul Gascoigne, who claimed on Saturday that he did not like the idea of foreign players saying they needed rest.

"It's all rubbish," McKenzie said. "This goes back to the days of Mirandinha at Newcastle. There have always been problems and you end up with some managers becoming xenophobic and not wanting any foreigners at all.

"Scandinavians are the one option because they are very similar to us anyway.

"The foreign players are

much more business-minded than (the British), but they seem to whinge an awful lot about the people who pay them.

"It staggers me the number of people who are playing and taking fortunes out of England, but are also saying everything about the place is wrong.

"I wouldn't have dreamed of living in Belgium and talking the Belgians and the people of Brussels that it wasn't a very nice place - the Belgian people don't do this and don't do that. That's bang out of order."

McKenzie insists that he had no problems with local culture during his time in Belgium and says the foreign players he played with were made welcome by their team-mates and fans alike.

Furthermore, he also believes the success Chelsea are currently enjoying can be attributed directly to their foreign players integrating well into the English community.

"Osvaldo Ardiles, Ricky Villa, Frans Thissen and Arnold Muhren all came over here

and loved it - so much so that Ossie still has a home in London," McKenzie said.

"He is still a member of a golf club in Ware. Can you believe that? Golf is such a typical English game. George Graham is a member there as well.

"I believe the Chelsea lads also love the country because they have discovered golf, and the biggest problem Gianluca Vialli has had is keeping them off the golf course."

But McKenzie appreciates

Bath act to rectify crisis

RUGBY UNION

BY ANDREW BALDOCK

BATH YESTERDAY responded to their scrum-half injury crisis by signing Wasps' England international Andy Gomarsall on loan.

Gomarsall, who won the last of his six caps against Argentina in 1997, will be available for Bath until 13 February, and is likely to be a replacement when Newcastle visit the Recreation Ground this weekend. Gomarsall, 24, has struggled to pin down a regular Wasps first-team place this season, fighting a three-way battle alongside Mike Friday and Martyn Wood, while fading completely from the England picture.

Bath will welcome his arrival after seeing their promising young Welsh prospect Gareth Cooper join the casualty list. Cooper suffered a fractured eye socket during the Tedy's Bitter Cup fourth round defeat by Newcastle last Saturday, and now faces a four week lay-off. Already on the sidelines are the Scottish international Andy Nicol, out for another month because of cruciate knee ligament damage, and the New Zealander Jon Preston (Achilles tendon), leaving the South African Steve Harley as Bath's only fit scrum-half.

The ailing European champions have lost seven of their last eight league and cup matches, and all hopes of domestic silverware will disappear for a third successive season unless they can somehow turn around an erratic Premiership campaign.

Fran Cotton is back in conflict with the Rugby Football Union - this time over the proposed slimming-down of the administrative structure of the sport in England. The Lions manager and former England captain resigned as vice-chairman of the Management Board last April in protest at RFU policy. Now the new-look Union has come in for an ear-bashing from Cotton as The Reform Group, of which he is president, rejected the RFU's working party report on counties and the future of the Council and Management Board. "This document is dangerous," said Cotton. "As the report stands, it further removes democracy from the membership."

The report, prepared by RFU vice-president and ex-England captain Budge Rogers, will recommend to a special meeting in March that administration below Twickenham headquarters level should be carried out by strengthening the constituent bodies (basically the 27 counties) who, as the RFU Council, would be responsible for policy.

Problems mount for Atkinson

NO SOONER has Ron Atkinson begun the struggle to keep Nottingham Forest in the Premiership than the problems began to pile up for him.

The long-serving Forest goalkeeper Mark Crossley, frustrated by his lack of first-team opportunities in the past 18 months, gave Atkinson an ultimatum yesterday. The 29-year-old has been unable to dislodge Dave Beasant from the side and has warned that, if he does not figure in the Premiership soon, he will ask to leave.

"I've got 18 months left on my contract," Crossley said. "At my age, it's no use playing reserve-team football."

Another problem for Atkinson is the doubt cast over his Elm bid for Carlton Palmer because of a wages wrangle. The Southampton midfielder has been lined up as the new manager's first signing, but the player and Forest have so far been unable to strike a deal.

"I can understand Forest's position, in a way," Palmer said. "They seem to be caught between two stools - between really going for it to avoid relegation and hedging for next year in case they do go down. But I'm certainly not holding them to ransom."

Juninho has ruled out the possibility of an immediate move to Aston Villa. The Brazilian international has been linked with a £12m move back to England, with Villa Park rated as the likely destination. However, the former Middlesbrough man has decided to try to establish himself in Spain, even though his career has not flourished since his move to Atletico Madrid in July 1997.

"It is very difficult when you are not in the team," Juninho said. "But I would prefer to fight

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

and work and get back into the team and be a success in Spain rather than look for a move elsewhere."

Leeds have taken the Slovenian defender Aleksander Knave on a week's trial from the Austrian club, Tirol Innsbruck. However, the 26-year-old may have played insufficient international football for his country to earn a work permit.

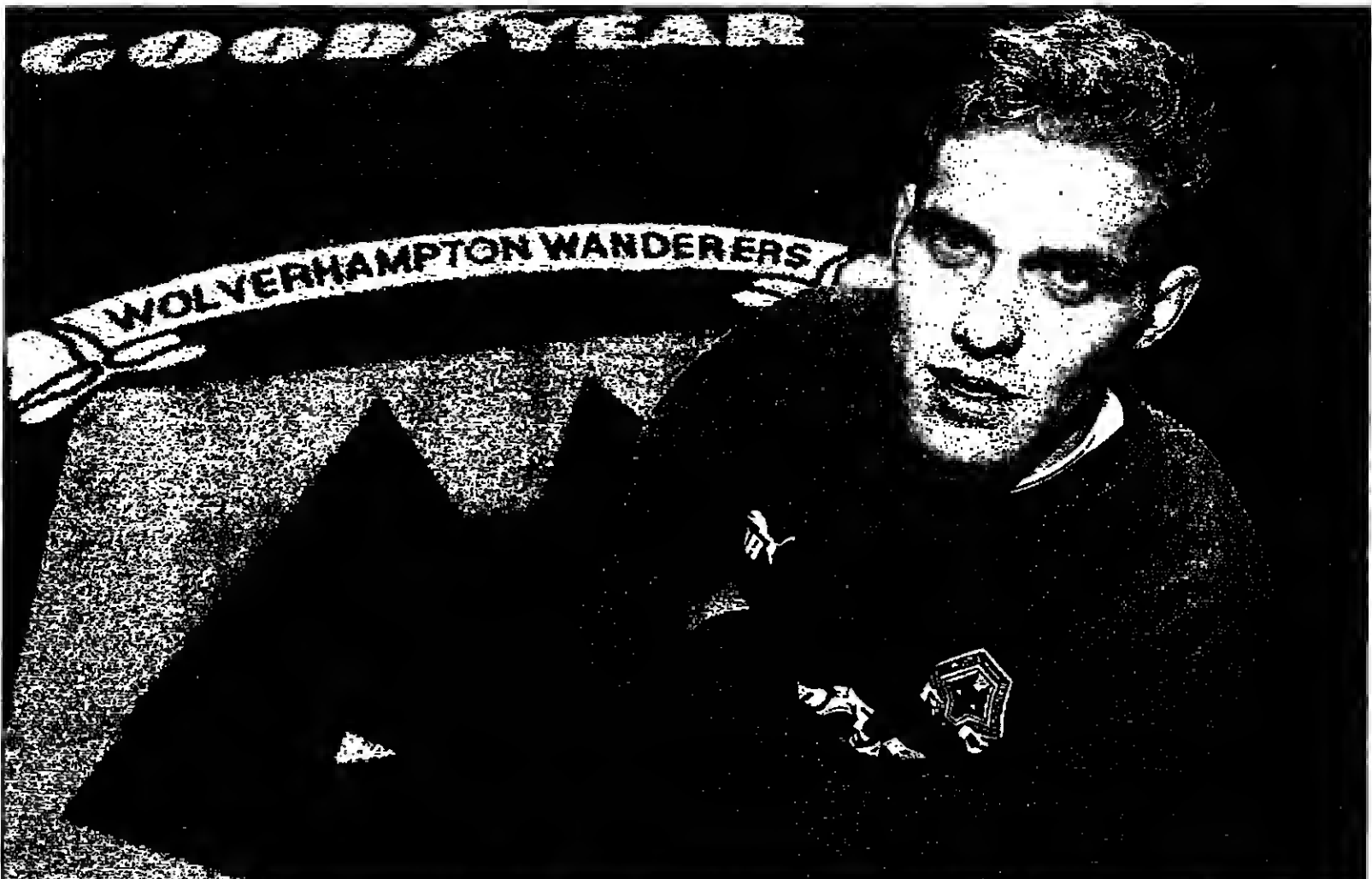
Wolves have completed the signing of the Norwegian World Cup striker Haavard Flo from the German Bundesliga club, Werder Bremen, for around £750,000.

The Everton manager, Walter Smith, is offering Graham Stuart a chance to return to Goodison Park. Smith is trying to sign the Sheffield United forward in exchange for the centre-half Craig Short, who is a surplus to requirements.

Gordon Taylor, the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, was last night deciding whether to return to the Football Task Force - despite the fact that he has not been invited back by its chairman, David Mellor.

Taylor resigned last week after criticising Mellor for remarks the former Tory MP had made about players and the PFA. "Certain individuals on the Task Force have asked me to think about [returning]. I've appreciated them, and given some consideration, together with my colleagues at the PFA."

Rangers will play a practice match against the United States national team at their winter training camp in Orlando, Florida, today. They will then meet the Brazilian side, Atletico Mineiro, on Sunday at the Orange Bowl in Miami.



Norwegian Wolf: Haavard Flo, the latest overseas signing at Wolverhampton Wanderers, arrives at Molineux yesterday

Action Images

Stott lobbies for FA chairmanship

AS THE debate continues over who will become the new Football Association chairman, Ian Stott believes he could be the compromise candidate.

The former Oldham Athletic chairman believes he may have the "middle-of-the-road" appeal to win confidence in all camps. Stott, who this week resigned as chairman of the Latics, has become a career football administrator after selling up his business empire, which included interests in holiday homes and night-clubs.

After almost 14 years as a councillor in the corridors of power at the FA, Stott knows a bit about survival and appeasement. He wants change at the FA, he wants it streamlined, but he still wants to retain its traditions. His 17 years as chairman of Oldham, in which

he oversaw their rise to the Premiership under Joe Royle's management, has earned him friends and admirers at every level of the game.

However, Stott stood down as Oldham's chairman on Monday. He is now vice-chairman at Boundary Park under David Brindley, following an uproar over reports that Stott was behind a proposed merger of Oldham, Rochdale and Bury.

Stott said that comments he had made had been taken out of context and he had no option but to resign. That decision leaves him with more time to lobby for the top FA post.

Stott said: "Now is the time to attack the situation at the FA. I would like to think that I would appeal to all sides. Now is the time for discussion. "I don't want this to look like

a full-blown election campaign. I'm not going flat out to be chairman, but I am certainly looking to become more involved at that level."

The 64-year-old, whose family used to be mill owners around Oldham, said: "I am interested in a position on the FA that would give me more involvement, but what that is at the moment I am not sure."

Stott does not have the outspoken approach of another candidate, Ken Bates, but he would want change. He said: "Maybe now is the right time to address the situation again."

Following Keith Wiseman's protracted departure, Stott has begun to put himself forward as a candidate for the middle ground. He said: "There was a time when it looked like there would be an immediate election

to find a new chairman, but that won't happen now until the summer, so there is no great urgency on that front at the moment. It will now be in June and that gives everyone a lot more time for discussion."

"There are obvious candidates, Geoff Thompson, who is now in charge, and David Sheepshanks, who I know well from the Football League, but he has only been an FA Councillor for a year or so.

"Of course, the chairman is elected every year, which I have always felt is a bit daft. It also means it is hard to get rid of someone mid-term."

Stott, who lives in the Cheshire stockbroker belt in Wilmslow, knows all about trying and failing to achieve change within the FA. He said: "Ten years ago I was involved

in submitting plans for restructuring, and I recall walking out of the meeting in Plymouth because of the pettiness and arguing."

"We were looking to cut the number of councillors, to have a board of directors drawn from the committees who would have the power to decide things, and to have an age limit as well. There are things we should be addressing again, there must be change but you must always be wary of hurting peoples' feelings. You are asking people to vote away their positions, but these things have to be looked at."

"I'm looking for a happy medium, the middle ground. But we have to be able to speed up decision-making and have an elected body of, say, eight people on a board to run things."

Prince's 147 break wasted

SNOOKER

JASON PRINCE has found century breaks hard to come by throughout his career but made spectacular amends with a 147 at Blackpool yesterday.

However, the maximum break was not enough to prevent the world No 39 suffering his ninth defeat in 10 matches this season. He lost 5-4 to Liverpool's Ian Brumby in the final qualifying round of the British Open in Blackpool.

Prince, who has recorded just 12 centuries in nine years as a professional, became the fifth player to compile a 147 and lose the match.

Brumby led 4-1 when Prince, from Yorkshire, who will be part of the Northern Ireland team at next week's Nations Cup in Newcastle, produced his break - the 25th maximum in the history of pro competition.

Prince's trickiest moment was the 14th red where he was forced to bridge awkwardly over the yellow. "That was probably the most important shot," he said. Full of confidence, Prince continued his comeback and claimed the next two frames before Brumby won the deciding with a 68 break.

"I would definitely trade the 147 for a win. I've really got mixed feelings because although I'm obviously proud of the break I need ranking points a lot more at the moment," Prince said.

BOWLS

WORLD BOULDER SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

First round: R. Wale (Wales) beat O. Le Marquand (New Zealand) 7-2; N. Smith (Wales) beat N. Smith (Wales) 7-2; N. Smith (Wales) beat N. Smith (Wales) 7-2; N. Smith (Wales) beat N. Smith (Wales) 7-2.

CYCLING

Richard Virenque, who announced his retirement following the Tour de France last year, will race for the Italian team Polti in the upcoming season. Virenque was the top rider of the Festina team thrown out of the Tour for allegedly using banned substances. The 29-year-old Frenchman has denied having knowingly taken banned substances.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Relegated fixtures: 9 Feb. Darlington v Leeds (7.0), LEAGUE: 26 Dec. Preston v Lincoln (from 2 Jan).

AUTO MOTORSPORTS

Relegated fixtures: 19 Jan. Harlow v Preston, Rochdale v Stoke, Sunningdale v Carlisle, Wigan v Scarborough (all from 12 Jan).

OTHER SPORTS

BOWLS: World Indoor Singles Championships (Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk). SNOOKER: Qualifying for Regal Scottish Open, British Open and World Championships (Notre Dame Hotel, Blackpool).

FOOTBALL

POINTS LEAGUE Premier Division: Sunderland v Leeds (7.0), LEAGUE: 26 Dec. Preston v Lincoln (from 2 Jan).

FOOTBALL

POINTS LEAGUE Premier Division: Emley v Pickley (7.30).

BASKETBALL

BUNDESLIGA: Greater London v Derby (7.30).

OTHER SPORTS

BOWLS: World Indoor Singles Championships (Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk).

SNOOKER: Qualifying for Regal Scottish Open, British Open and World Championships (Notre Dame Hotel, Blackpool).

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 4; Detroit 5 Montreal 1; Colorado 4 Chicago 1; Edmonton 2 Dallas 2 (all).

RALLYING

DAKAR RALLY 12th stage (Nema to Tiki, Mauritania): Cam 11, L. Schiesser (Fr) 7th 3min 23sec; 2 J. M. Serva (Sp) 3min 55sec behind; 3 R. Shinozuka (Japan) 4min 11sec; 4 M. Prieto (Sp) 4min 11sec; 5 T. De Laverge (Fr) 4min 11sec; 6 M. Masuoka (Japan) 4min 11sec; 7 J. C. B. (Fr) 4min 11sec; 8 M. Masuoka (Japan) 4min 11sec; 9 M. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 10 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 11 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 12 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 13 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 14 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 15 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 16 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 17 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 18 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 19 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 20 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 21 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 22 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 23 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 24 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 25 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 26 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 27 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 28 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 29 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 30 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 31 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 32 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 33 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 34 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 35 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 36 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 37 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 38 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 39 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 40 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 41 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 42 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 43 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 44 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 45 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 46 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 47 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 48 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 49 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 50 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 51 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 52 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 53 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 54 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 55 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 56 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 57 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 58 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 59 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 60 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 61 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 62 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 63 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 64 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 65 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 66 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 67 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 68 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 69 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 70 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 71 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 72 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 73 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 74 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 75 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 76 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 77 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 78 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 79 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 80 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 81 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 82 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 83 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 84 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 85 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 86 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 87 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 88 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 89 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 90 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 91 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 92 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 93 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 94 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 95 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 96 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 97 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 98 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 99 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 100 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 101 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 102 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 103 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 104 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 105 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 106 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 107 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 108 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 109 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 110 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 111 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 112 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 113 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 114 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 115 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 116 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 117 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 118 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 119 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 120 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 121 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 122 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 123 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 124 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 125 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 126 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 127 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 128 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 129 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 130 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 131 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 132 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 133 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 134 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 135 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 136 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 137 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 138 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 139 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 140 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 141 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 142 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 143 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 144 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 145 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 146 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 147 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 148 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 149 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 150 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 151 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 152 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 153 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 154 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 155 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 156 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 157 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 158 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 159 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 160 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 161 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 162 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 163 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 164 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 165 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 166 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 167 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 168 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 169 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 170 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 171 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 172 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 173 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 174 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 175 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 176 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 177 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 178 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 179 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 180 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 181 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 182 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 183 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 184 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 185 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 186 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 187 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 188 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 189 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 190 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 191 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 192 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 193 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 194 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 195 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 196 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 197 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 198 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 199 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 200 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 201 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 202 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 203 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 204 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 205 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 206 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 207 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 208 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 209 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 210 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 211 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 212 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 213 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 214 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 215 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 216 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 217 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 218 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 219 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 220 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 221 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 222 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 223 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 224 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 225 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 226 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 227 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 228 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 229 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 230 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 231 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 232 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 233 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 234 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 235 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 236 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 237 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 238 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 239 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 240 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 241 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 242 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 243 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 244 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 245 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 246 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 247 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 248 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 249 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 250 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 251 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 252 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 253 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 254 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 255 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 256 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 257 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 258 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 259 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 260 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 261 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 262 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 263 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 264 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 265 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 266 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 267 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 268 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 269 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 270 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 271 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 272 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 273 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 274 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 275 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 276 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 277 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 278 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 279 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 280 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 281 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 282 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 283 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 284 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 285 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 286 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 287 S. Serva (Sp) 4min 11sec; 288 S.

SPORT

SMITH'S RETURN TO THE BAR P26 • CRICKET'S ONE-DAY KNIGHT P25

Venables on his way out at Palace

TERRY VENABLES was on the verge of parting company with Crystal Palace last night after talks with his chairman, Mark Goldberg. If Venables goes, Palace are expected to offer the manager's position to Steve Coppell, who has filled the job on two previous occasions and is currently the club's director of football.

The imminent break with Venables is believed to be a direct result of Palace's worsening financial situation, although Goldberg has also expressed his unhappiness with the team's performances. Palace have played poorly in recent weeks and are now languishing in the bottom half of the First Division.

Venables is expected to leave as soon as negotiations about a final severance payment are completed. The former England coach agreed a deal believed to be worth £750,000 a year when he accepted Goldberg's offer last June, shortly after the Palace owner took control of the club. The pay-off may now be the subject of some acrimonious debate as money is in short supply at Palace.

The club said in a statement last night: "Mark Goldberg is having discussions with Terry Venables at the present time. These discussions are as amicable as they can be. The situation will be resolved mutually and an official statement on the matter will be made within the next 48 hours."

Venables believes he has not been given sufficient resources to rebuild the club and said on Sunday that he was surprised by the timing of last week's sale of Paul Warhurst to Bolton for £800,000 (Warhurst played for Bolton against Palace in a 3-0 defeat for the London side on Sunday). He is also unhappy with the prospective sale of Matt Jansen, Palace's highly rated striker.

Jansen is likely to be sold within the next fortnight, for

FOOTBALL

BY NICK HARRIS
AND ALAN NIXON

around £5m, but it is understood that Newcastle, who had been favourites to secure his signature until now, may lose out to another Premiership side, possibly Aston Villa or Tottenham.

Countering complaints about a lack of transfer funds, Goldberg has pointed out that Venables has brought in 13 players in his brief reign. However, despite the £1.5m purchase of two Chinamen, Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai, and the recruitment of Lee Bradbury



Coppell: May take control

(£1.5m from Manchester City), and Craig Moore and Gordon Strachan (£800,000 and £300,000 from Rangers), Palace's results have not improved.

When Venables goes, his assistant Terry Fenwick looks certain to follow him. Goldberg is then expected to offer Fenwick's job to John Cartwright, who returned to Palace last year to run the club's football academy. Cartwright managed Palace's highly successful youth team of the late 1970s, when, ironically, Venables was first-team manager and Fenwick played in Cartwright's side.

Coppell has managed Palace twice before. His first spell

ended when he resigned following Palace's relegation from the Premiership in 1993. He returned briefly as technical director two years later and again when he replaced Dave Bassett following his departure for Nottingham Forest two years ago.

Coppell promptly led Palace to promotion, but was moved into his present role following a run of poor results in mid-season. Alfie Lombardo took over as caretaker player-manager but was unable to halt the slide towards relegation.

In the past Coppell has said that he regards himself as "a Palace man", but it remains to be seen whether he would step into the breach this time. He was unhappy with the way he was moved aside last year and may feel that he would have too much to lose if he became manager. Whoever takes charge could face the prospect of fighting a relegation battle and having to sell players.

Goldberg had difficulty raising the funds to complete his takeover of the club from Ron Noades last summer. Palace are understood to owe £1m to Noades, who is also owed a further £4.5m by Goldberg in loans - due to be repaid in June 2003 - arising from the deal. Goldberg and Noades yesterday agreed to relax Palace's payment terms to help the club over their current financial difficulties.

Goldberg is also being sued by his solicitors, S J Berwin, for more than £400,000 in costs arising from his purchase of the club.

Goldberg is also in talks with Jim McAvoy, who took over as Palace's chief executive last October in an effort to sort out the club's various business difficulties. McAvoy said: "I make no pretence about my disquiet regarding the decisions he is currently making at the club. I expect to make a more detailed statement within the next 48 hours."



Terry Venables (left) and assistant Terry Fenwick during their last match in charge of Palace, Sunday's defeat by Bolton Harry McGuire

United make Roa top target

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED are to make a £6m move to sign the Argentinian international goalkeeper Carlos Roa to fill Peter Schmeichel's shoes.

United's manager, Alex Ferguson, has decided that the South American, whose form has been one of the principal factors behind Real Mallorca's unexpected challenge for the Spanish title, is the man for the job of replacing the Dane.

Ferguson was impressed with Roa in the World Cup finals, when he became a national hero for saving David Batty's penalty and putting

England out of the competition. United's scouts have been regular visitors to Mallorca's matches for the past couple of months since Schmeichel announced his retirement, and every report has been good.

Ferguson's brother Martin, the club's chief European scout, also saw Roa in top form as Mallorca beat Real Madrid last weekend to continue their challenge for the championship. Contact has now been made with Roa's agents and with the Spanish club about a

summer move for the 28-year-old goalkeeper.

Mallorca will not sell now - and United are willing to wait - as they have the chance of domestic honours and the European Cup-Winners' Cup, in which they are in the last eight along with Chelsea. However, a deal should go through in the summer. Roa would need to apply for a work permit, but as Argentina's regular No 1 that should be no problem.

Roa is big, brave and athletic. His age is ideal for a goalkeeper and he would play his peak years at Old Trafford. The only

drawback is that he speaks little English. News that he is United's choice might also boost Schmeichel. His form dipped so dramatically that Ferguson thought about signing a new goalkeeper sooner rather than later.

Schmeichel may be rested for United's trip to Leicester on Saturday. He returned to Old Trafford this week after his holiday in Barbados, and Ferguson has hinted that he may continue with his second-choice goalkeeper, Raimond van der Gouw, at Filbert Street.

Ferguson intends to check if

Schmeichel is physically and mentally right to return. The manager claimed after Sunday's victory over West Ham that the rest periods for his World Cup men were over, but he may allow the Dane another match off.

"We will wait and see," said Ferguson. "We will see how much Peter has enjoyed himself while he was away."

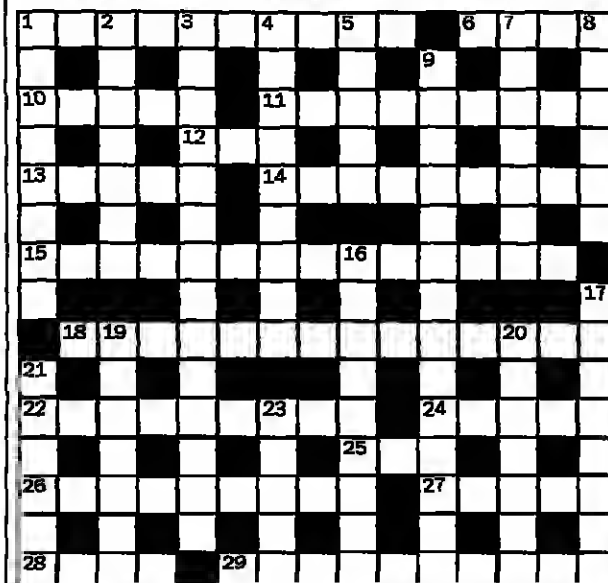
United have let their 21-year-old Norwegian striker Erik Nevland join the Swedish club, IFK Gothenburg, on loan for the Scandinavian summer season.

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3819 Thursday 14 January

by Spurius

Wednesday's solution



ACROSS

- 1 Lambeth resident, shrewd man (10)
- 6 States monarch to be one guilty of exploitation (4)
- 10 Church vessel used for dairy product? (5)
- 11 Nobody's seen just after arriving at hospital department - it's in New York (9)
- 12 Total will be covered by a direct debit (3)
- 13 Condescend to be associated with new translation of Gide (5)
- 14 President embarrassed about function being stopped (9)
- 15 Not what you'd call private medicine? (3-11)
- 18 Old teamaker VIP car-

DOWN

- 1 Crash investigators finally gave opinion in a Court (8)
- 2 Sale starting with third
- 3 item? Care needed (7)
- 4 Philosopher's work bearing fruit in Central American country? (8,8)
- 5 Abrasive agent appears upset when crossing central London (9)
- 6 Declare woman's taken off a little weight (5)
- 7 Beverage brewed in NE first (7)
- 8 Capital, a hot and dry one? (6)
- 9 They'll enclose a quotation, as a rule (8,6)
- 10 Act as arbitrator in plant, then give up (9)
- 11 Boxes in knee, lots the worse for wear (8)
- 12 Compete, and succeed - good television (7)
- 13 Well-developed men fail to excite (7)
- 14 Agents importing primarily cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg? (6)
- 15 Volunteers to escort a soldier climbing in forest (5)

Germans are afraid of us, says Sir Bobby

BY ANDREW WARSHAW
in Cannes

SIR BOBBY CHARLTON last night accused his old adversary Franz Beckenbauer of trying to score political points in a bid to undermine England's bid to secure the vote to stage the 2006 World Cup.

Beckenbauer has once again raised the issue of the so-called "gentleman's agreement" in which England are alleged to have promised their support to Germany if, in return, that country backed the Euro 96 campaign. "He keeps going on about it and he should forget it," Sir Bobby said. "It's taken a lot of time arguing the case."

Speaking at the Football Expo trade fair in Cannes, Sir Bobby also declared that England's World Cup 2006 rivals were "afraid" of the English bid. "We have no divine right [to stage the tournament]," said Sir Bobby, "but what we have are safe grounds, no fences, and no major police presence."

Despite having staged Euro 96, he stressed, England had not hosted the world's premier football competition since 1966, when he and his team-mates won the tournament. "I hear things from our rivals, from Germany and South Africa, about why the World Cup should not come to England," said Sir Bobby. "But the one thing that is consistent is that every time a statement comes out from one of our competitors about the World Cup, they invariably mention England. Why is that? It is because they are afraid of us. They respect the strength of our bid for the things that we can offer."

Sir Geoff Hurst, the hat-trick hero of the 1966 World Cup

final and the English campaign team's other leading ambassador, welcomed the sale of Wembley stadium and said the rebuilding of it would be a key milestone in the campaign. "Wembley is one of the cornerstones of our very strong bid," Sir Geoff told an informal press conference. "The latest news is marvellous."

He also expressed complete confidence that the recent resignations of the Football Association chairman, Keith Wiseman, and the chief executive, Graham Kelly, would have no bearing whatsoever on the English bid. "The bid is not about one or two personalities," he said. "It's about a strong team making a bid for the country as a whole. I see it as a small hump on a long, tough road. We've almost forgotten about it already."

Sir Bobby agreed. "It does not affect the bid one iota in the context of the world and that's the opinion of the Fifa [world governing body] delegates who matter," he said.

Beckenbauer, who is also in Cannes promoting the German bid, agreed it was time to stop invoking the gentleman's agreement, brokered by Sir Bert Millichip and Uefa officials when Millichip was in charge of the FA. "The English have a new leadership and it is all in the past now," Beckenbauer said. The president of the German campaign team had earlier said he was surprised that the English FA continued to try to ignore the accord that was

struck by senior members of Uefa, the European governing body. "We did not count on the candidature of the English," said Beckenbauer. Germany's former World Cup captain and manager, "We supported England to get the European Championship in 1996 so we expected support from them for the World Cup. We were a little disappointed."

Beckenbauer was photographed alongside Sir Bobby, his rival ambassador in the English camp. He said the two remained good friends despite their respective tasks in the race to stage the 2006 tournament. "The last time I saw Bobby was at the Manchester United-Bayern Munich game," Beckenbauer said. "We often meet. I like him very much. He's doing his job and I'm doing mine which is how it should be."

Beckenbauer, respected throughout the game, was unanimous when it came to England's qualifications to stage the World Cup. "In my opinion, England and Germany has an equal chance," he said. "We, like them, can offer everything. I can't say which is the best because ultimately it's not up to me. It's for the Fifa executive committee to decide."

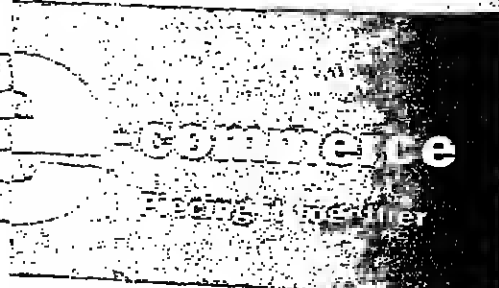
Beckenbauer hinted strongly, however, that South Africa was still the favourite provided they could persuade Fifa they could provide a sophisticated enough infrastructure, something the English campaign team severely doubts.

"The next logical step is for the World Cup to go to South Africa," Beckenbauer said. "The question is, is Africa ready?"

MORSE

Getting any business started with e-commerce applications requires the skills and support of more than one company.

This is why Sun Microsystems has forged alliances with leading e-commerce organisations to help its customers.



Morse is proud to be one of Sun's partners. With first hand experience of putting our own e-commerce systems in place, we have much to offer.

To find out more about this, and why Morse is Sun's largest partner in Europe, please visit:

WWW.MORSE.COM



THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Sex on a stalk

BY ANNA PAVORD

It earned its place in history by sending an entire country mad. And the tulip remains 'the most seductive, the most capricious, the most various, subtle, powerful and intriguing flower that has ever grown on earth'

Tulipomania is supposed to have died with the great crash in Amsterdam in 1637, when the state finally intervened to bring to an end three years of frenzied trading in the flower. That, anyway, is what historians tell us. But they are wrong. Tulip madness is still irresistibly with us.

I know, because I'm a demented slave to the flower myself, and I'm not alone. In Australia, Japan and the US, in Chile, South Africa and New Zealand, in France, Italy and the Netherlands, tulip growers are falling over themselves to keep up with demand for this extraordinary flower, the sexiest, the most capricious, the most various, subtle, powerful and intriguing flower that has ever grown on earth.

It has had an adventurous life, full of more real dramas than any Hollywood screenwriter would ever dare to invent. Holland was the setting for one of its strangest escapades; the craze for tulips that raged there between 1634 and 1637 has puzzled historians ever since. How was it possible that at the height of the fever, one bulb of the tulip *Admiral van Enkhuizen* could sell for the equivalent of 15 years' wages for the average Amsterdam bricklayer?

It was partly a matter of timing. The Dutch East India Company had been set up in 1602 and this, combined with Amsterdam's increasing importance as a port, marked the beginning of an era of great prosperity for the Dutch. Merchants got rich and, in their wake, lawyers, doctors, pharmacists and jewellers too. The tulip, only recently introduced from the East, became the ultimate status symbol, the definitive emblem of how much you were worth. In the 1680s, the city trader's Porsche performed the same function, though in a cruder way.

And the flower itself had a unique trick that added dangerously to its other attractions. It could change colour, seemingly at will. A plain red tulip might emerge the following spring in a completely different guise, the petals feathered and flamed in intricate patterns of white and deep red. Though tulip lovers of the time did not know it, these "breaks" were caused by a virus, spread by aphids, but the research providing the answer to a mystery that intrigued and ensnared tulip growers for centuries was carried out only in the late 1920s.

The very concept of a “virus” was not understood in the modern sense until the 1880s. And only the

advent of the electron microscope in the late 1920s gave researchers the necessary means

to unravel its true nature. Early growers had a thousand theories on the best way to bring about the magic break. Some, taking their cue from contemporary alchemists, laid powdered paint on their tulip beds, expecting the colours miraculously to affect the flowers. It was no stranger than the alchemists' own attempts to turn base metal into gold. In fact it was rather better, for while the alchemists consistently failed in their endeavours, the tulip growers occasionally succeeded. They just did not know why.

Connoisseurs throughout Europe (and in the Ottoman Empire) had always rated "broken" flowers more highly than plain coloured ones. For that reason, the broken flowers were the ones that commanded outrageous prices. But the virus was the joker in the tulip bed. Because its cause was not known, its effects could not be controlled. Virus-weakened tulips did not produce offsets as freely and vigorously as virus-free bulbs. Fine broken varieties such as 'Semper Augustus' were slow to increase and that, too, increased their value.

Those who could not afford the tulips themselves commissioned artists such as Ambrosius Bosschaert and Balhassar van der Ast to paint them. Even the grand master of Dutch flower painting, Jan van Huysum, could rarely command more than 5,000 guilders for a painting. But a single bulb of the tulip 'Admiral Liefkens' changed hands for 4,400 guilders at a bulb auction in Alkmaar on 5 February 1637. So the

priceless flower paintings we now ogle in the National Gallery are there only because some poor sap in Amsterdam could not afford the real thing.

Across the North Sea, England was not immune. Under the Stuarts, for instance, this country witnessed two civil wars, a regicide, a republic, restoration and a revolution in breathless succession. But what was the gardener and staunch royalist Sir Thomas Hanmer (1612-1678) of Bettsfield, Flintshire, doing during this time? With one hand he was leaving 200 supporters of the king to help him defend his patch in north Wales. With the other he was sending tulips to John Lambert (1591-1683), one of Cromwell's generals. Lambert, like Hanmer a besotted tulip fancier, lived at Wimbledon Manor. For his garden, Hanmer sent him "a very great colour-root of Agate Hanmer," one of his best tulips, mothered erevisch-purple, deep scarlet and white.

Throughout the cataclysmic events of 17th-century England – the comings and goings of kings and Protectors, the Gunpowder Plot, the plague, the Great Fire of London – the tulip reigned, untopped, on its flowery throne. It was the most sought after, most precious plant of the 17th-century garden, the flower of the age. This was not just in Britain. The tulip ruled all Europe, holding sway in the Bavarian gardens of the Prince Bishops at Würzburg and at Nymphenburg, the summer residence of the Electors; in the parterres at Schönbrunn, in the Hapsburg palace in Vienna; in the Mirabelle Gardens originally built for Archbishop Dietrich outside the city walls of Salzburg; at Saint Cloud, Hauts-de-Seine in France, where the Duc d'Orléans, brother of Louis XIV, employed the fine painter Nicolas Robert to record his fabulous collection of tulips.

Tulips, too, mapped the movements of many of those persecuted for their religious beliefs. Like messages written in invisible ink, tulips emerged slowly in the new grounds that Flemish and French refugees were forced to seek in the wake of Philip II's Catholic crusades.

In the second half of the 16th century, these Protestant Huguenots most probably brought the tulip into England from Flanders. Long before the Dutch cornered the market, this was the most important centre of tulip breeding in Europe. Some settled in Norwich. Others, such as the Flemish botanist Lobelius, settled around Lime Street in the City of London. Huguenot refugees brought the tulip into Ireland, too, where the Dublin Florists' Soci-

ety was founded in 1746 by officers in the Huguenot regiments that had fought for Prince William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne.

In Michigan, tulips arrived with a later wave of early-19th-century Dutch immigrants, members of the Dutch Reformed Church, persecuted by King Willem I. Under their leader, the Rev van Raalte, they quickly colonised Michigan's plains, establishing a regular demand for European plants. The demand was bravely met by a new kind of tulip entrepreneur, the travelling salesman. The Dutchman J B van der Schoot (1825-1878) spent six months in 1849 travelling through the US taking orders for tulip bulbs.

But, for me, the only tulipomania that matters is the one that ranges around the English florists' tulips, the most beautiful tulips in the world. These were bred, for the most part, by 19th-century enthusiasts such as the Rev William Wood, a Unitarian minister at the Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds; Tom Storer of Derby, railwayman and tulip maniac who, lacking any garden, grew his tulips along Derbyshire's railway embankments; John Slater of Cheetham Hill, Manchester, who bred the supremely elegant, feathered red-and-white 'Julia Farnese'; and Sam Barlow, whose life as apprentice, manager, and, finally, proprietor of the Stakehill Bleach Works at Castletown could have provided the entire plot of an Arnold Bennett novel. They were all florists in the original sense of the word, devoting themselves single-mindedly to the culture of a particular flower, developing it by their own breeding to conform to a tightly laid down set of rules, and showing it in sometimes viciously contested competitions.

A Lancashire man, Barlow was born in Medlock Vale, the son of "one of that band of earnest and enthusiastic working-men botanists who have done so much to create a love of beauty and sweetness in the too frequently unlovely life of the Lancashire manufacturing districts" (*Gardeners' Chronicle*, April 1863) When his father died, Barlow, aged 39, was made manager of the Stakehill bleach works. Just six years later, he became its owner.

In its day, Stakehill was regarded as a perfect example of the way in which "high culture and exquisite taste can be associated

in the closest manner with the requirements of manufacturing industry". Paintings by artists of the Manchester School covered the walls of Barlow's house. More daringly, he also acquired one of the first Impressionist pictures to be bought by an English collector: *A Village Street, Loweciemmes*, painted in 1871 by Camille Pissarro. Cabinets overflowed with "ceramic curiosities". Outside, wagonloads of soil were brought by railway from a plot Sam Barlow owned at Great Ormes Head, Llandudno, to replace the poisoned earth of the neighbourhood. Here Barlow built up the biggest collection of English florists' tulips that anyone had ever seen.

He spared no expense on his hobby and very much poorer florists such as David Jackson, a silk weaver living at Middleton, benefited. Barlow had set his heart on acquiring a tulip bred by Jackson around 1865 and named after his wife. It was a strikingly fine flower, with white petals heavily feathered in glossy black. He wanted, of course, the whole stock of the variety, so that nobody else could say they had it, and offered Jackson the weight of the bulbs in gold. He ended up paying even more but, as the Scottish florist James Douglas said at the time, "they are weak in the head about Manchester".

On 28 May 1893, Barlow, the man who "created a floral paradise amid a forest of chimney shafts", died after falling down the stairs of his Manchester warehouse. Fittingly, his name lives on in a tulip, raised by a fellow florist, the railwayman Tom Storor. The flames licking the petals of Sam Barlow's gold-and-scarlet flower commemorate the heartbreaking devotion of generations of past florists. Of the hundreds of tulip societies that once existed in this country, only the Wakefield Tulip Society in Yorkshire remains. In the petals of the exquisite, rare tulips still exhibited in competition each year by the Wakefield florists, runs the blood of flowers first grown by John Evelyn and John Rea in the 17th century. This is the tulipomania that matters.

Anna Paword writes on gardening every Saturday in 'The Independent'. To order her book, 'The Tulip' (Bloomsbury) at the special price of £25 (p&p extra), call 01634 298 036 quoting the reference '25 tulip'

INSIDE	Letters	2	Features	8-9	Fast Track	13	Radio	17
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Arts	10	Law	13	Satellite TV	17
	Obituaries	6-7	Film	11-12	Listings	15-16	Today's TV	18

FILM

NHS in crisis

Sir: No say that Florence Nightingale would be shocked and saddened were she to return to a present-day hospital ward would be an understatement.

During the century after she founded the nursing profession as we knew it, to be a nurse was a source of pride and fulfilment. The "old-fashioned" ward sister knew and cared about every patient on her ward, knew, taught and counselled each nurse under her, organised and managed her team from senior doctor to lowly cleaner and was a mother figure to all on her ward. She was the respected and esteemed team leader who knew how to get the best out of her staff. A manager in multi with a clipboard can never command the same qualities.

To work on a well-organised ward with a good sister was a pleasure, very hard work but fulfilling as one felt valued by the patients, the team and society. What we earned was less important. ANN PUGH
York

Sir: The "60 crisis" has led to another staff shortage in the NHS. This will no doubt give way to another round of pay claims, the most eagerly highlighted by the media being that from nurses.

Could I shock you by saying that hour for hour a junior doctor earns roughly the same as a nurse? They only earn the "fortune" perceived because they work such long hours - because there aren't enough doctors.

It is the whole work force of the NHS that counts. Nurses, doctors, porters, cleaners and even (reluctantly) managers. Without them the NHS is doomed, so all reasonable pay demands must be met.

However, before April we will be told that public funds will not stretch, and then the public and the politicians will have a choice. Do we want taxes to remain as low as they are, or do we want a health service that is full of well-motivated, well-trained and physically and mentally alert staff? Because we can't have both.

You get what you pay for.
Dr C COLE
Queen Alexandra Hospital
Cosham, Hampshire

Sir: We shall enter the new millennium as we leave this one with public health care in crisis. Not because of finite resources but because health, like housing and education, is a poor competitor when compared with the "essentials" of society such as advertising, weapons and banking.

This absurdity is a consequence of running society in the interests of the wealthy. Governments cannot withstand the rich as they move their investments to the profitable areas of the globe. Hence countries compete for investment by offering low wages, low taxation and poor social welfare.

If we wish to institute social health, we must remove power from the rich. Then we can set humane priorities. EIC BEST
Lancaster

Sir: Do not be fooled by the Victorian facade at our Chelsea site. As you say, the Royal Marsden is a world-renowned centre. We must pay up to prevent the decline of our health service. 6 January. We could not maintain our reputation at the forefront of cancer care, treatment and research if we did not invest in buildings and facilities.

In the past seven years nearly £6m has been spent on new wards, operating theatres, treatment and diagnostic facilities. For example, we opened a new clinical block in 1992 and our purpose-designed dedicated unit opened in 1993; a dedicated imaging department and breast diagnostic unit opened in 1994; a fully integrated haematology unit in 1997 and a radiotherapy unit with a whole range of facilities for patients from cancer treatment in 1998.

Where designed to be accessible and well-organised for patients and



Signs of God No 4: A signed conversation takes place in the vestry of St Mary of the Angels, Cardiff, which serves a well-organised community of deaf Christians
Tim Hetherington

accommodating to new clinical practices and the latest medical technology. Our expertise in radiotherapy, for instance, is recognised by an ISO (International Standards Organisation) 9001 quality standard. We are continuing to invest in the fabric of the hospital for the sake both of patients receiving care and of staff delivering it. TESSA GREEN
Chairman
Royal Marsden NHS Trust
London SW3

Sir: Jeremy Laurance highlights an issue with which I am all too familiar ("Cash shortage keeps woman in hospital for 10 months", 12 January). There are two fundamental problems - the division between health and social services and chronic underfunding. Responsibility for older people's health and social care should be vested in a single community care authority to ensure that older people receive services which meet their individual needs.

Age Concern receives many calls where health authorities and local authorities say that they cannot foot the bill for nursing home care. This situation could become more critical in the light of the recent High Court decision which firmly places the sole responsibility of all nursing care on the NHS. The Government needs to issue guidance on this as soon as possible to ensure that the rights of people like Nellie O'Reardon are clear and that they are not left waiting for funding. Older people who need residential care now cannot afford to wait for new policies which might take years to implement. SALLY GREENGROSS
Director General
Age Concern
London SW16

Public and private

Sir: The Robin Cook saga has again posed the question, "Is a person's private behaviour relevant to their public performance?" Of those who claim

that episodes of human fallibility in private are proof of hitherto undiscovered public inadequacies I ask for evidence, for the reverse is often the case.

The world of politics is littered with people whose private inadequacies would initially lead one to think them incapable of their public roles, but they seemed to cope. Churchill's fondness for a dram didn't prevent him leading the nation through the Second World War. Lloyd George's predilection for the opposite sex didn't prevent him leading the country and at least one ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer has had some difficulty remembering to pay his Visa bill.

Conversely, wasn't Adolf Hitler reputedly very good with children? LAWRENCE ROBERTS
Winterton, Lincolnshire

Sir: The view is being expressed, in support of Mrs Cook's revelations concerning her husband, that the burnification suffered at his hands justifies her actions. However, in cases of domestic violence, it is said, quite rightly, that there is no provocation which would ever

Sir: Hamish McRae asks why the EU is more corrupt than its constituent countries ("Corruption's bad for your wealth", 12 January). Isn't the answer that we are all more prone to cheating members of a different tribe/family/country than to cheating our own? The moral: keep the EU budget to a minimum. R S MUSGRAVE
Durham

Sir: With reference to your article on the BT Newcastle call centre (Magazine, 2 January), your comments on Newcastle were as predictable as expected. "A city that is struggling to leave the 19th century" - got a life: Newcastle is one of the most vibrant cities in the country.

justify a husband striking his wife. How therefore, is it possible to justify Mrs Cook's actions? It seems to me that Mr Cook has been duffed up in a quite frightening manner. P GORDON
Bournemouth, Dorset

Fluoride 'choice'

Sir: Pamela Taylor (letter, 12 January) argues that the water industry's proposals offer choice over whether to fluoridate supplies. I would be interested to hear what choice I have as a consumer if I wish to avoid imbibing excess fluoride in my democratically fluoridated water. Pay my water rates and buy bottled water, presumably.

The one method of preventing dental caries that has no malign side-effects, is more effective than any other method, and actually saves money, is reducing intake of refined sugar in all its forms. Of course, there's no profit in it. Or am I being cynical? CHARLES HARRIS
London NW3

IN BRIEF

"£16,000 per year ... is as good as it gets in a depressed post-industrial town" - well, I'm an ordinary working person and I earn far more than that, as do most of my associates. PHIL DENT
Chester-le-Street, Durham

Sir: Elizabeth Stuart (letter, 12 January) says that the point of the Christ event lies not in what Jesus did but in who he was. It is this kind of theology - making fantastical claims for things invisible - which has allowed the churches for centuries to ignore the teachings of Jesus in favour of falling out over esoteric metaphysical speculation

Sir: Ninety-eight per cent of Europeans do not consume drinking water to which fluoride has been added. The 2 per cent are, almost exclusively, in the British Isles. There are no "communities wanting fluoridation" (letter, 12 January). PAT RATTIGAN
Chesterfield, Derbyshire

Virgin's price

Sir: I feel compelled to correct the impression that you gave in your two articles on Virgin Radio (12 January).

Perhaps uniquely among the major British radio stations the management (as opposed to the shareholders) of Virgin Radio has remained unchanged over the last five years.

On 6 May 1997 Virgin and Capital announced that they had entered into an agreement to sell Virgin Radio for £65m. Virgin did not sell its radio station for a materially different consideration to Ginger. Even after a deduction for Virgin's investment in Ginger, the cash proceeds from the transaction were well in excess of

£50m, and not £16m as you have suggested.

There was no need for an amazing "turn-around" to reach the announced profits in October because the company had been generating operating profits for the two prior years. Richard Branson and Virgin Interests had never consequently needed to invest over £10m. KENNETH IBBETT
Chief Executive
Virgin Media Group
London W1

Islam hijacked

Sir: As an older Muslim, it saddens me and many of my generation to observe Islam being hijacked by men like Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein, reduced in spirituality and then used as a political tool of violence, all which is having a negative effect on impressionable younger Muslims and on how Islam is perceived in general.

Many Muslims protested for an end to the recent bombing of Iraq before the start of our holy month of Ramadan; to have continued would have been viewed as an outrage against Islam. But what about the outrages committed by Muslims during Ramadan? The murder of innocent hostages in Yemen as well as the planned bombings, the provocative and destructive rantings and rhetoric of Saddam Hussein, a call to all "good" Muslims to go and kill an American or British citizen by Osama bin Laden - are these not worse?

I would ask my younger Muslim brothers and sisters who support and demonstrate for Saddam Hussein how long they would continue to rally behind him if they had to live under his oppressive hand. Let us not allow the greatness and beauty of Islam to enter its Dark Ages, to lose its humanity and spirituality and become equated with terrorism, violence and oppression. Dr ABDUL KARIM
Cambridge

Sex before the Pill

Sir: Deborah Orr writes that "sexual liberation ... began with the advent of the oral contraceptive" ("The myth of sexual freedom", 8 January).

I am now 81 and before I was 20 I had some happy love affairs. This was before the Second World War and long before the advent of the Pill. I had to be very careful about contraception and used a cap, which didn't bother me or my lovers. As I did not at that age want to have a baby, I did not consider a lover as a potential father and felt wholly responsible for not allowing him to be.

If a woman does not want a baby she can prevent it unless she is careless or very unlucky. She herself can be in control of this very important issue and I cannot see why she should want to share her control with a man, unless she wants to have his baby, in which case they should discuss it.

I would prefer to remain anonymous for the sake of my children and grandchildren. NAME AND ADDRESS
SUPPLIED

Sir: The underlying premise of K Haggett's diatribe about the supposed immorality of pregnancy outside marriage (letter, 11 January) is wholly false. Throughout almost the whole of human history, and in much of the Third World today, infant mortality rates have been so high that the fear has been of failing to rear an adult successor, not of having more children than one could support. It has repeatedly been demonstrated that, regardless of the introduction of effective contraception, fertility rates do not begin to fall until there has been a sustained reduction in infant mortality.

In Britain, until the introduction of welfare support for the elderly, a barren marriage, with no children to care for parents in old age, was a dreaded prospect. There are many alive today who can remember when to become too old to work meant entry to the workhouse if there was no family support. To ally such fears, it was common practice for a marriage not to be finalised until the bride-to-be was pregnant. If pregnancy failed to occur within a decent time the betrothal was dissolved without recrimination and both parties were free to seek a new partner.

Young people should be discouraged from promiscuity on compelling health grounds and because it is corrosive to self respect. To go beyond this in a return to oppressive, hypocritical pseudo-morality would benefit no one. KENNETH CAMPBELL
Kettering, Northamptonshire

Pupils' progress

Sir: Far from being unlikely to deliver our pledge to reduce infant class sizes to 30 or below by the next election (leading article, 9 January), we have already made substantial progress and we expect that most schools will meet that pledge by September 2000, over a year ahead of schedule, with the remainder doing so by September 2001.

More than 100,000 infants are already in smaller classes as a result of money invested in teachers and classrooms. We have already allocated £67m and over the next three years we will allocate a further £560m to meet the pledge in full. ESTELLE MORRIS
Minister of State
Department for Education and Employment
London SW1

Man of the years

Sir: Please thank Nicolas Walter (letter, 12 January) for coming to the defence of Dionysius Exiguus in the discussion about the millennium and the Year Zero. It would be terrible to go down in history as Dennis the Short. Who was short of a thought. PETER GALE
Ramsey, Isle of Man

A meeting of monarchs on the sea coast of Pretoria

HERE'S THE latest instalment of the rediscovered Shakespearean saga, *The History of King Tony or New Labour's Lost Love*. King Tony and Queen Cheryl have flown to South Africa to meet King Nelson Mandela, who was cruelly imprisoned and held from his inheritance for so long by the wicked Regent, Prince W Botha.

At an airport, South Africa, King Tony emerges from the aircraft, followed by a host of hawks, media hounds and security hangers-on. There comes to meet them King Nelson Mandela of South Africa, with courtiers.

King Nelson: Welcome, King Tony, twice welcome to our shores.

Although you English have overcome our men, And beaten us in bloody fearful combat, Yet I forgive your prowess on the field.

King Tony: Victory in battle? This comes as news to me!

Should I if Mandela were here, he'd know the score.

Alas! He shall advise me nevermore!

A new spacer hack steps forward from the crowd.

Hack: Your Majesty, I think the King refers to certain cricket matches played last year. In which the English beat the Springbok side.

Nelson: Spot on! You've got it right! For you must know

That I now take a great new pride in sport Which is the passport to my people's hearts.

At least if they are white, I mean to say.

My black South Africans could not care less, Except for soccer, which they seem to love.

I only wish my black footballing team Was half as good as our white rugby boys!

So, how are things at home?

Tony: Oh, fine, fine, fine!

Nelson: Then there's no truth at all in what I read Of sleaze and cynicism, Cabinet splits...

Tony: These are the little things which come to vex us.

Above which we should always rise care-free, Leaving us time to face the real tasks, Of health and schools and roads et cetera.

Our plan is now in place and we have done



MILES KINGSTON

The spirit of Mandelson: 'Oh Tony, Tony, waste not time on this! They do not want the health and schools routine!'

Two thirds of what we pledged ourselves to do! Let us be judged by what we have achieved And not what petty tabloids have believed!

There appears to King Tony the spirit of Mandelson, which only he can see.

Spirit: Oh Tony, Tony, waste not time on this! They do not want the health and schools routine!

That's all for home consumption. While you're here, Make friends with old man Nelson - he can help

With Libya, Lockerbie and all that, And that would be a great PR coup for you!

But King Nelson is an ageing man And not long for this world: see if you can

Discover his successor and make friends. Yet do it quick! He looks not well to me.

The spirit of Mandelson vanishes.

Tony: Oh, stay, imperfect spirit, stay and say What things await me on my coming home!

This book by Duke Cook's wife - does it contain Much matter to my future loss or gain?

The spirit of Mandelson returns, looking flustered.

Spirit: Look, sweetie, I can't keep on doing this - These international visions cost the earth!

But since I've got another minute more, Yes, I have read Madame Cook's little oeuvre.

She moans a lot, and says that Cook hates Brown.

But so we all do, dear, what's new there?

I'd forget about the book if I were you...

Now fly home to rebuild my career! The Duke of Prescott has it in for me, I fear!

The spirit of Mandelson vanishes for a second time.

Nelson: King Tony, tho' you seem lost in thought, may I

Present to you th' Archbishop, Desmond Tutu?

Tony: Et Tutu, Brute?

Tutu: What's that?

Nelson: I didn't catch...

The spirit of Mandelson reappears, looking hot and bothered.

Spirit: Tony, are you affected by the baking weather?

For God's sake man, just pull yourself together! The spirit vanishes for the final time. Exit all, looking thoughtful, save for the newspaper hack.

Hack: King Tony's looking more than a little trail... I think I'll try that on the Daily Mail.

Exit, looking for a phone.

More of this anon, sweet gentles.

مجلس الوزراء

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Foreign Office must shrug off the burdens of the past

IF EVER proof were required of Britain's need to move from the burdens of the past to a more modest role in the world of the future, it must be in the procession of crises now hitting the Foreign Office. Yemen, Chechnya, Sierra Leone and Iraq: they are all serving to complicate the work of the Foreign Office with demands that it seems loath to understand. These crises are distinct in detail, of course. Chechnya has posed the problem of protection of nationals working abroad, and what we may reasonably ask of them in terms of information. Yemen asks us to choose between supporting our passport-holders and pursuing our foreign relations. Sierra Leone displays the deficiencies of intervention, while Iraq exposes the strains of our lonely loyalty to Washington.

But if there are common threads, then they are these. One - which we cannot easily get over - is the entanglements of past empire. London has become a home for all sorts of refugees and immigrants not just because of our tolerance but because we ruled so many places for so long. When we were fighting Communism in Aden or the Middle East, we encouraged fundamentalism abroad and allowed its leaders to take refuge here. Times change but we have to live with a colonial past, just as the French do with Algerian dissidents. And we have to accept, as the French must do too, that we can no longer control the fate of our former territories, in west Africa or anywhere else. That we lost no wars, and gave up our empire voluntarily, makes us in some ways more complacent, not better able to cope.

The second point is the protection of British citizens abroad. Like it or not - and the Foreign Office would clearly love the whole development to go away - more and more Britons are travelling abroad to faraway places for pleasure and business. They fall ill, and get taken hostage and shot at. In other words, they cause problems.

But they also, pace Sir David Gore-Booth and the other traditionalists in the Foreign Office, are the people who pay the salaries of the Foreign Office staff. For too long have the consular duties of British embassies been treated as the lesser area of our activities abroad.

If the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, had spent more time beefing up the consular service and less in worrying about his absurd ethical foreign policy and the social mix of his staff, we might be better able to cope with the Yemen situation. As it is, he is once again having to react to a crisis in which public concern has taken the initiative.

The worst foreign policy statement to come out of a government was Douglas Hurd's statement that we should aim to "punch above our weight in the world". We shouldn't. Our aim should be to develop a policy that suits our resources and supports our citizens as much as our interests abroad.



Mr Blair should find a useful job for his chum

WHERE NEXT for Peter Mandelson? The view of the Labour back benches is clear, namely that he should not be in government. They have made it plain to Mr Blair that, anxious as he may be to rehabilitate his old friend, Peter needs to do more penance for his error of judgement.

While many are settling old grievances, and others will never forgive the key architect of New Labour, Mr Blair will have to listen to his parliamentary grassroots.

He is entering choppy political waters, as we have seen in recent weeks, and he is going to need their patience and support. Thus, he may have quietly to drop his idea of pushing Mr Mandelson as some kind of "personal ambassador". But this is not to say that he should just let Mr Mandelson hang out to dry. For one thing, Mr Blair

might not be in Downing Street were it not for the efforts of the former trade secretary. And for another, Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson are friends. The Prime Minister needs and values his advice, comradeship and support. He should be allowed it.

One does not have to be a fully paid up subscriber to the *Führerprinzip* to accept that Mr Blair is entitled to choose his own friends and advisers. Hostile party hacks may as well ask him not to listen to Cherie.

But the Prime Minister needs to find Mr Mandelson a useful role for reasons other than sentimentality. Even his worst critics might grant that Mr Mandelson is an intelligent man, who has shown a flair for presentation, campaigning and winning elections. And this is a year of elections, above all. Mr Mandelson would be an ideal choice to design campaigns and reinvigorate a neglected party machine. This would not preclude him from making the occasional thoughtful speech on policy, or the Third Way. And he can also be used to press the vital need for Britain

to join the single currency. The ambitious Mr Mandelson might find such a prospect irksome. He long wanted a "proper job", a ministry, and to get away from spin. But he blew it. He must accept that. The party needs his talents. And, after he's spent a decent period of selfless service, Mr Blair will have the ammunition to silence critics; he can then call on Mr Mandelson to return to the Cabinet table. The penance will be worth it, for everyone.

Mischief maker

YESTERDAY WE reported that Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, would not be sitting on the rehearing of the Pinochet case after objections from the former dictator's lawyers. Lord Browne-Wilkinson, chairman of the appeal committee, called us "mischievous" (while admitting the story was true). Quite right. And long may it continue. As the press baron Lord Beaverbrook once said, it's the duty of the press to create mischief, a dictum as apposite today as ever.

This phoney story of a bloodless man emerging from the shadows

HERE'S HOW it goes. Yesterday morning, when the other broadsheets had front pages dominated by the conclusions of the enquiry into Ashworth hospital, *The Daily Telegraph* alone led with another twist in the Peter Mandelson saga. "Book tells of plot to succeed Blair," claimed the sub-headline. On page 4, the main story was entitled: "Mandelson 'plotted to become PM'." And the plot? Ah yes, the plot. The plot is outlined in chapter 16 of Paul Routledge's book about Peter Mandelson - *Mandy: the Unauthorised Biography of Peter Mandelson* - to be published next week.

"There had always been a Blair project," declares Mr Routledge, thoughtfully sipping us the details. "Now, however, there emerged from the shadows the Mandelson project." Which was that Peter M "could supplant Gordon Brown as Chancellor and succeed Tony Blair" as leader of the Labour Party and prime minister. Blimey! Even Routledge admits that "Initially it seemed a preposterous idea". After all, as he points out, everybody hates Mandy, and he couldn't even get elected to Labour's executive committee when last he stood. But then the evidence began to stack up for the sceptical biographer. And I'm going to outline it for you in detail. Here it is. Item one, an interview in the *New Statesman* with the union leader John Edmonds in which he's nasty about Gordon Brown and nice-ish about Peter Mandelson. Item two, an article in *The Spectator* a month later by Irwin Stelzer, economist and friend of Rupert Murdoch, comparing Brown unfavourably to

Mandelson. Item three, Philip Gould's book, *The Unfinished Revolution*, published in October, which absolved Mandelson from betraying Brown over the party leadership.

That's it. That's the entire "Mandelson project" which "emerged from the shadows". I have to say that we owe Mr Routledge a debt of gratitude for being able to discern, in the deep gloom, what most of us would never have noticed, no matter how hard we might have looked. It sometimes requires an active imagination to lend faces and voices to the nebulous shapes that disturb our sleep. Perhaps some day the minutes of the secret meeting between Messrs Stelzer, Edmonds and Mandelson will be published, and Routledge and *The Telegraph* will be vindicated.

It is a shame that the author could find no role in the plot for one of Peter's gay friends, because they must have been in there somewhere. The recent outing of Mandelson on television by the journalist, Matthew Parris, saved Routledge himself the disturbing task of being the occasion for another bout of tahlid gay-bashing. But in chapter 1 ("Scandal") Routledge recalls that, in the aftermath of the Ron Davies affair, "The view began to take hold that Mandy was only the outward and visible sign of a wider network of homosexual men in key positions in public life."

The view "took hold" of the columnist Richard Littlejohn ("characteristically trenchant"), and Norman Tebbit ("characteristically blunt"), who both compared homosexuals to Freemasons. It took hold of "Tory politicians

DAVID AARONOVITCH
After all, everybody hates Mandy and he couldn't even get elected to the Labour executive

who asked questions about the magic fraternity." (I am unsure whether "the magic fraternity" is a Tory phrase, or Routledge's own.) It took hold of "some observers (who) see the club [of New Labour insiders] as a 'pink Mafia' or, in the amusing American parlance, the 'homintern'." It took hold of Stephen Bayley, former artistic director of the Millennium Dome, who is quoted as saying: "What is worrying is that people of power and influence are involved in an interest group which just happens to be a sexual one. It is a secretive interest group. It just happens to be about male gay sex."

Bayley goes on, uninterrupted by Routledge: "It is both defined by the bonds of secrecy and strengthened by them. As soon as those bonds are loosened, its powers are diminished." A bit like secret protocols, really. God,

when an idea "takes hold", it's amazing where it can lead you! But Bayley's sentiments do make it all the more surprising that, in chapter 7 ("Outed!"), Mr Routledge professes himself astonished that Peter Mandelson will not just come out and tell everyone about his sex life.

"The question arises: why does Peter Mandelson deny his sexual orientation?" Routledge writes.

Well, he does acknowledge it a bit. Routledge concedes, for here are the ubiquitous "others" again to "argue that Mandelson uses his gayness as a political and social weapon". If that's true, then Mr M can hardly complain when Fleet Street camps (wnoops, sorry, on his doorstep. Furthermore: "The issue of Mandelson's sexual orientation will not go away, certainly not until he makes a clear, unambiguous statement that satisfies..." That satisfies whom, Paul? Lord Tebbit? Stephen Bayley? Me? No: "That satisfies his gay critics."

There you have it. If it weren't for the "gay critics" the whole "issue" would go away. Paul Routledge himself has said enough about Peter Mandelson's sexuality to put the "issue" beyond doubt for all of us straight, but those "gay critics" demand more. Perhaps it was their presence that prevented Routledge from attempting any serious analysis of exactly why someone like Peter Mandelson should prefer not to wear his sexuality round his neck, in a way heterosexuals never have to worry about. After all, to find out why homosexual politicians might want to stay in the closet, Paul only has to reflect

on the articles he himself writes about them. The same reflection would also give Paul Routledge other insights, absent from the book. Such as, what was it about old Labour that became so unattractive to almost all classes of voter that the Blair project was seen as the solution? This analysis holds the key to Labour history for the last 20 years, and Peter Mandelson played an important strategic part in providing it. So did Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, and Neil Kinnock.

I have known Peter Mandelson for more than 20 years, and met Paul Routledge (whom I like enormously) at Routledge's own request. Some inconsequential remarks by me are (accurately) reported in the book. And it was not going to be, he told me, a "stitch-up". Yet the Peter Mandelson who "emerges from the shadows" is a man all of whose faults are magnified, and all of whose achievements are diminished. He is bloodless, manipulating, unprincipled, treacherous and calculating. Even his statement about Pinochet, that it would be "gut-wrenching" to see the old tyrant brought to justice, is attributed by Routledge (with no evidence) to a desire to curry favour in the party, and help him fulfil his shadowy plan.

I am not a Mandy man, and have never taken a briefing from him, or seen him socially for several years. I just happen to know something about him and what really makes him tick. And that puts me well ahead of anyone who relies on this homophobic and conspiracy-obsessed work of partisanship to their understanding of an important modern political figure.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Wow, I've just won a big bank account!"
Philip Ozersky,
who caught and then sold Mark McGwire's
record-breaking baseball for £1.6million

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"When one burns one's bridges, what a very nice fire it makes."
Dylan Thomas,
Welsh playwright and poet

WHEN YOU BREAK DOWN WHO'LL BE THERE TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

...THAT'S THE JOB OF THE AA

At The AA we put people first, because with Personal Membership you are covered in any car as driver or passenger. Our patrols are expertly trained to look after our members, their passengers and the car. With our advanced deployment technology, AA patrols get to members, on average, in just 35 minutes. With the world's largest patrol force, we fix more cars by the roadside than anyone else, getting you going again quickly and safely.

TO OUR MEMBERS WERE THE 4th EMERGENCY SERVICE

TO JOIN OR RENEW CALL FREE 0800 444 999
QUOTE REF 9403
LINES OPEN 24 HRS
OR JOIN ONLINE AT
WWW.THEAA.CO.UK

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

US newspapers comment on the progress of President Clinton's Senate trial

IT TURNED out that there was no depth to which this president would not blithely stoop to conquer, or at least to avoid defeat. And it turned out that there were people willing to aid the president in this dirty work. And it turned out that a largely Democratic press corps that was feeling uneasy about its role in bringing down a Democratic president would grasp the excuse to broadcast the sexual secrets of Republicans. And so an ethical code that stood, bat-

tered and bruised but still surviving, is finally destroyed.
The Washington Post

AS THEY look at the impeachment spectacle, Americans do not see individuals sacrificing weekends and evenings to conduct the nation's business. They see people who care little for anything other than their desire to bring Clinton down or to protect him. Bill Clinton's fate is not yet decided. But the fate of those judging

him has been. The widening gap between Washington and the rest of the country will not begin to close until Washington makes a greater effort to understand the values held so strongly by ordinary people.
USA Today

IMPEACHING A president carries different risks for the nation than impeaching one of several hundred federal judges. If the evidence supports the allegations of material perjury or obstruction of justice to the reasonable satisfaction of most senators, then the Senate has a duty to remove Bill Clinton from office. The historical consequences of sweeping such conduct under a congressional carpet would be too serious.
The Detroit News

Kenneth Starr will try to keep his office open forever. Meanwhile, the public will be further alienated from a Congress totally out of touch with the hinterland. Instead of dissing (denigrating) polls (or trying to parse their political meaning) the Senate would be wiser to listen to the message that the pollees are sending: Enough already. This trial is silly, not historic. Listen now, or listen at the polls in 2000.
Philadelphia Inquirer

AA

PANDORA

PANDORA IS looking forward to Michael Cockerell's *How To Be Home Secretary* (Sunday, 24 January, BBC2), in which – for the first time – documentary television cameras are allowed inside the Home Office. Of special interest will be the segment in which the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who is ultimately responsible for M15, discusses the M15 file that exists on him, initiated back in his so-called "subversive" days in the Seventies. Has Jack read it? Can we all have an on-air peek?

LAST THURSDAY, just a day after a group of rambles, led by Andrew Bennett MP and accompanied by several policemen, marched down the controversial footpath in East Sussex belonging to Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, a new barbed-wire fence was erected. Although his spokesman had told the press that Van Hoogstraten had left the country to holiday in France, a rambles spokesman yesterday assured Pandora that the landowner supervised the building of the fence. In the meantime, Van Hoogstraten – a multimillionaire who made his early fortune in Brighton property and was sentenced to Wormwood Scrubs back in the Sixties for a hand-grenade attack on the home of a business associate – has just found a new journalistic ally following years of savage press attacks. Auberon Waugh, in his column last Sunday, expressed his loathing for the rambles and described Van Hoogstraten as "not the sort of person one would wish to ask to tea" but "ideal as a champion against the Rambles Association".

SCOTTISH POWER was all set to launch its brand-new £3m national advertising campaign, designed by the Bartle Bogle Hegarty agency to extol the benefits of signing up with the gas and electric firm. Then, new year storms blasted the North Country.

"We decided to postpone the campaign for a while," a Scottish Power spokesman told Pandora. "Instead we've been running advertisements advising the 20,000 people who are entitled to compensation – £50 for 24 hours without power – to apply for it." Sounds like a perfect example of that old ad agency maxim: "Don't mix your messages."



IN THE latest issue of *Loaded*, Pandora was amused to read that the Arsenal midfielder, Ray Parlour, is dishing the dirt on his team mate Tony Adams, with whom he shares a room on away trips. Speaking of Tony, whose playing career re blossomed after giving up the booze a while back, Ray confides: "When he's not thinking about his piano, he's writing poems. I'll be lying there trying to get off to kip and he's in the bathroom with the light on and his notebook going: 'ere Ray, listen to this what I've written.'" Parlour confesses that he's not always an enthusiastic audience for Adams's late-night readings, but assures the lads that: "We're like a couple of old dears!"

THE SAGA of Sly Stallone's Miami house has been exhaustively covered by Pandora, including Rambo's desire to sell the waterfront property to the London-based Orient Express group and his neighbours' objections to having a luxury hotel built in their vicinity.

Now a new buyer for Sly's pad has appeared on the horizon. His name is Gunther IV, he's a frisky Alsatian dog and he inherited a fortune from his canine father, who was left a reported \$65m (£40m) by a German countess back in 1962. The animal now owns a company said to be worth \$200m, and houses in the Caribbean and in Europe. He has expressed his approval of the property in Miami by running around the garden with one of his handlers. Pandora suspects that Madonna, who lives nearby and was on the verge of selling her own house recently, might be far happier to welcome a guard dog into the neighbourhood than crowds of gawping tourists.

KENNETH BRANAGH, about to direct *Love's Labour's Lost* as a film musical, has made a rather surprising casting decision. The Beverly Hills brat-next-door star of *Clueless*, Alicia Silverstone (pictured), will play opposite Branagh.

Nobody was more surprised than the 22-year-old Alicia. "I can't do this," she told him. Branagh responded: "Of course you can." Filming starts in this country in February. Silverstone is working hard on her singing lessons.

What's wrong with vindictive wives?



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

Mr Cook should praise his ex-wife's courage and tell his boys to respect their wonderful mother

I HAVE read with incredulity the rubbish, mostly written by fortysomething men up to no good I am sure, that has followed in the wake of the book by Margaret Cook (dump the surname – Margaret) about her marriage to Robin Cook, and the ignoble end at Heathrow airport of that period of her life. It is personal, they say – vindictive, vengeful and embittered.

Yes, what else is someone in her position supposed to feel? You may persuade yourself that you will try not to show these feelings, because the world will love and respect you less for this than if you pretend a saintly forgiveness, of the sort that Hillary Clinton has now made her own. But burning hurt and rage are what you feel, and revenge (preferably divine) is what you yearn for. Ask me – I know, and I wrote an emotional book about it.

What gets these commentators really foaming is not only that the partner of a famous or powerful person should be so weak as to respond in these human ways, but that she or he should then reveal this vulnerability. They have nothing to

say about the public figure flaunting the new model in the media, thus further humiliating the ex-partner. But they do sanctimoniously ask whether it is right for someone as insignificant as a spouse to expose the private life of a politician, or whoever, and cause them damage.

Wrong question, sirs. You should instead ask whether the partner of

a public figure has the same rights as you or me to say and write what they wish about their lives, especially when they have been maltreated. Or are they expected to render their pain invisible just to keep up appearances?

Writing, as the playwright David Edgar said this week, is a fundamental and universal human right. It is also a "vital part of being human to try to understand why other human beings – nasty as well as nice – behave as they do". Other criticisms don't stand up, either.

If Dr Cook has said things that have alarmed her ex-husband's colleagues because of political implications, why should this be any more outlandish and unethical than the dirt-digging carried out by Paul Routledge and other unauthorised biographers? Maybe it is because she is not a seedy political chap hanging out with Charlie Whelan, but a fragrant wife, "a slight and delicate creature" (the clever title of her book) who should be coping with her knowledge by devoting herself to nurturing a bonsai tree.

As for the ludicrous worries that

if we scrutinise public figures in this way the best people will simply avoid public life, we should be more concerned that these ambitious and able people will fail to get the best partners in life – because anyone with personality, intellect and self-respect will refuse to sign away their rights and become trophies of compliance – thus leaving the selection pool bubbling with bland secretaries and too-eager-to-please personal assistants.

We used to laugh and cry at the appalling loyalty displayed by Tory wives and ex-wives in the inglorious past. Remember Mrs David Mellor as she was forced to smile for photographers after the dreadful revelations about her philandering husband – who then left her anyway for a rich woman with deadly red lipstick. Recall, too, the depressing good behaviour of Mrs Tim Yeo and Mrs Alan Clark as they stood by their men, partly I imagine, because they felt they had no other options.

You would have hoped that Labour men and women, although clearly not able to resist sexual temptation any more than the last

lot, might be more democratic and fair in the way they dealt with those they betrayed and left after many years of good service. And if this is indeed "new" Britain, which is more open and receptive to emotion, as everyone from Martin Jacques to Susie Orbach seems to be suggesting, we should rejoice that people like Margaret Cook are no longer hampered by the pressures of out-of-date, unjust social constraints.

Margaret is a thoroughly modern, bright, professional, emotionally honest woman, who has written a lively account of a survivor who saw it all her way, at least after Robin flew away. Like Diana, Princess of Wales, she refused to read out the part written for her by someone else. She wanted it put down as it happened, from her point of view.

If Robin Cook wants to do the right thing now and come out shining, all he has to do is praise his ex-wife for having the courage to do what she has done, say that he can understand how he has made her feel, tell his boys to respect their wonderful mother, and wish her well with all his heart.

We must send in troops to stop the killing in Kosovo



MARY KALDOR

There should be no talk of a political settlement before a ceasefire is firmly established

JUST BEFORE Christmas, Veran Matic, director of the independent Belgrade radio station B92, met the American special envoy to the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke, and asked him why he continued to talk to Slobodan Milosevic. Holbrooke replied that there was no credible opposition leader. Matic replied that what was important was not individual leaders but support for a broad range of democratic initiatives to build an alternative public opinion.

In wars, it is always the democratic groups committed to peaceful methods of managing conflict that get squeezed. War is polarising – there is no space for democratic initiatives. Nowhere is this more true than in Kosovo, where 10 years of non-violent resistance by Kosovan Albanians to Serbian repression failed to gain international support. Within Kosovo, the peaceful approach has lost legitimacy. The international community's task to find a political solution has been much harder since the war began.

The political positions of both Milosevic and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) depend on their uncompromising stance and, indeed, on continuing violence. It is hard to see how the KLA could ever give up its demand for independence, or how Milosevic could ever concede more than token limited autonomy (after all, it was he who took away the province's autonomy in 1989). Moreover, the international community cannot even fulfil its role as mediator because of its own distaste for independence, for fear of further fragmentation.

The escalation of the violence is reminiscent of the war in Bosnia Herzegovina. The international community is reluctant to intervene militarily and pin its hopes on the success of political negotiations, which are always elusive. The humanitarian crisis and media attention slowly drag them into the

conflict, however. In the autumn, after the plight of Albanians driven from their homes and living in woods was publicised, the international community threatened air strikes on Serbia and succeeded in negotiating a ceasefire and partial withdrawal of Serbian troops. To be monitored by unarmed verifiers under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The verifiers are even weaker than the peacekeepers were in Bosnia; they are particularly dependent on Serbian goodwill. Meanwhile, the political talks were supposed to continue. But they have got nowhere and, as in Bosnia, the very act of negotiation helps to legitimise the warring parties and further sideline moderate democratic voices; a stream of diplomats and politicians continue to visit Milosevic. Now the ceasefire is being eroded on both sides and Serbian forces are returning to the area in violation of the agreement.

The most likely scenario is that the war will continue, perhaps through several more broken ceasefires, with mostly civilian casualties.

huge physical destruction to villages and infrastructure, and many refugees and displaced persons.

Moreover, it will be difficult to contain the violence to Kosovo. Conflict could escalate in Macedonia and Montenegro, even in Albania. To avoid this scenario a change of strategy towards Kosovo is needed. There should be no talk of a political settlement before a ceasefire is firmly established and normal life has begun to return to the province.

This was, after all, the British government's approach to Northern Ireland: there was no question of involving the IRA in talks about Northern Ireland's political future before a ceasefire had been convincingly established. Milosevic is as much of a terrorist as Gerry Adams or Adam Demail (the KLA spokesman) – if not more so.

Talks should focus on establishing a meaningful ceasefire enforced by peacekeeping troops under OSCE auspices who would also be responsible, as in Bosnia, for controlling weapons stores and for demilitarisation. The forces should be commanded by Europeans, probably British or French. There should be a token Russian presence to satisfy the Serbs and, if possible, a token US presence to satisfy the British who do not want to commit ground troops without this. At the same time, the "extraction force" that is currently based in Macedonia, under Nato auspices, should be expanded and renamed a "deterrent force" to intervene in the event that the ceasefire breaks down.

The initiative for this change of strategy would have to be taken by the Europeans. The Americans are unwilling to commit ground troops and the only form of military action they are prepared to take, as in Iraq and as was threatened earlier against Serbia, is air strikes.

But air strikes are notoriously counterproductive, especially if they



UN peacekeeping soldiers in the Balkans "should intervene"

are not followed through by ground troops. They provide an excuse for cracking down on the opposition and they increase support for extreme positions. The threat of air strikes in the autumn provided justification for closing down some independent media and the repressive university law, as well as making things difficult for aid organisations.

It also hardened opinion, not only in Serbia but in Republika Srpska as well. European governments have been pioneering a new approach to peace-enforcement that contrasts with the American preoccupation with bombing. The British Defence Review is innovative in the way that it reorients British armed forces to contingencies of the Bosnia and Kosovo type.

Moreover, this kind of thinking is not confined to the British. The Danes developed their own strategic concept during the Bosnian war and were very effective at enforcing humanitarian corridors and even eliminating Serbian tanks. A strat-

egy of this kind has to be combined with a political effort to support and build up democratic alternatives in Serbia as well as Kosovo and indeed in the whole Balkan region.

Milosevic needs to be isolated, not courted, by the international community, and indicted by the war crimes tribunal. The indictment of Radovan Karadzic did help open up new political perspectives in Bosnia. The international community needs to talk to and support the democrats, whoever they are and however marginal they appear today.

Those engaged in the fighting have to stop the violence, but they will never be able to find a lasting solution. In the end, it is independent-minded citizens such as Veran Matic and others who will create a situation where peace can be constructed.

Mary Kaldor's *New and Old Wars: Organised Violence in a Global Era* is published this month by Polity Press, price £29.50 hardback, £12.95 paperback.

THE INDEPENDENT

Black Iron Pancake Pans
- from just £6.99 plus p&p



Manufactured in France these traditional pans are favoured by professionals because the older they get the better they perform. Suitable for use on all types of cookers these pans will, with use, build up a surface (non-stick) patina. Built to last for years these superb pans are ideal for cooking pancakes to perfection as well as being excellent for frying any of your favourite foods with the minimum of oil. The metal used in these pans has a high heat retention allowing you to cook fast on economical settings.

Available in two sizes: 24cm diameter (rim to rim) at just £8.99 plus £1.95 p&p; 20cm diameter (rim to rim) at just £6.99 plus £1.95 p&p. There is also a heat proof handle mitt available for just £3.50.

Your pan will arrive with full instructions and if you choose to buy both pans you will also receive the handle mitt absolutely FREE.

HOW TO ORDER (UK orders only)
Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order. NO CASH please to THE INDEPENDENT PANCAKE PAN OFFER. 20 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 1NL.
For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01702 332922

We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Item Qty
24cm Pan @ £8.99
20cm Pan @ £6.99
Handle Mitt @ £3.50
24 & 20cm Pan @ £15.98
Post & Packing @ £1.95

I enclose a crossed cheque for £ (address on back) made payable to THE INDEPENDENT PANCAKE PAN OFFER (UK Ltd) or debit my Access/Visa account by this amount. My card number is:

Expiry Date: /

Signature: NAME:

ADDRESS:

Post Code:

Sent by THE INDEPENDENT PANCAKE PAN OFFER, 20 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 1NL.

Please tick one box if you are ordering from overseas (UK orders only). Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

THE INDEPENDENT PANCAKE PAN OFFER (UK Ltd) is a company registered in England. No. 02017

Are call centres the new sweatshops?



PODIUM

VICKI BELT

From a speech by a research associate at the University of Newcastle to the Royal Geographical Society

CALL CENTRES are offices dedicated to delivering services to customers over the telephone. Call centres are used across a range of sectors, including financial services, travel and transport, information technology, marketing and retail. Call-centre staff, or "agents", typically spend their working hours seated at their desks in constant contact with customers, making or receiving telephone calls and processing information.

Europe has seen a huge growth in these call centres over the last 10 years. One study has claimed that at the end of 1997 there were as many as 3,560 call centres in the UK alone, employing a total of approximately 163,000 staff. This growth looks likely to continue into the next century.

Call centres have recently captured the attention of the media and the academic community. It has been argued that they are the "new sweatshops", and that they offer us a disturbing vision of the shape work will take in the future.

Women outnumber men in virtually all call centres. At the lowest, they make up 40 per

cent of employees; at the highest, 90 per cent. There are some differences between sectors, with males better represented in IT call centres than in others. On the whole the staff employed in call centres tend to be young, aged between 20 and 30.

The research seems to suggest that employers often consider females to be more suitable for call-centre work than males, mainly because they are regarded as having "natural" communication skills and the ability to "smile down the phone". In our research, this was a typical response: "I do think that there are advantages being in this business if you are female, because, in general, females are better at communicating – and it is all about communicating – making people feel a part of the team and making them feel as if they belong."

Call centres employ a range of the latest management techniques. In particular, team working and "empowerment" are widespread. The majority of call centres have flat organisational structures with three layers – agent, supervisor and manager. The relationships

between staff and management in the call centres that we studied were on the whole described positively. Most agents are on first-name terms with managers, and some described their centres as "family-like" environments.

The majority of call centres are not unionised, and staff had mixed views on this. Some agents, supervisors and managers were hostile to unions. Call-centre staff are heavily

monitored. Calls are often recorded, and supervisors can listen in to calls when they wish. In addition, copious statistics are collected about agents' performance. However, despite being hostile to this, most agents seem to accept monitoring as a necessary aspect of their work.

In line with other studies, our research found that agents are often frustrated by the repetitive nature of the job. Taking calls all day is deemed to be stressful, tiring and dull: "There's only so many times you can say what your name is and what the product is," one commented. "Sometimes you get 85 calls a day, and you just can't speak when you get out of here. It's terribly boring."

"I really try to think of other things that I do in my free time," said another. I do oriental dancing, belly-dancing, and I think, 'what would be a good costume?' I also do meditation and yoga, and I try to switch off completely and think of absolutely nothing. But you do find you have to resort to things to keep yourself sane after a little while of working in a call centre."

As a result of the routine and

stressful nature of taking calls all day, many agents complained of "burn-out". Indeed, staff turnover is high in many call centres because of this factor. It was clear that many agents feel that their work is undervalued by wider society. A number of agents said that they have constantly to "convince" people that they have a "proper" job.

However, despite this many women enjoy the atmosphere in call centres, claiming that they have "energy" and "buzz", and are "fast-moving". Furthermore, many call centres have developed an excellent work-related social life, and are considered sociable places with a good "team spirit".

About half of the women interviewed expressed a desire to move up the career ladder. However, agents stressed that promotion is difficult. Furthermore, most of the women with career aspirations did not express a desire to move beyond supervisory level.

There is a danger that call-centre work confirms women's position in servicing and caring roles, and their subordination in society as a whole.

Such childish behaviour



**ANN
TRENEMAN**

The Bramleys are looking for a fairy-tale ending. They want someone to kiss it all better

EVERYONE INVOLVED in the saga of the runaway foster-parents Jeff and Jennifer Bramley believes that what they are doing is for "the sake of the children". The police say it, the social workers insist on it, the various parents are all convinced of it. Certainly that is what the Bramleys themselves believe. In fact, the letter that they have written to the world at large pleading their case, begins: "We, Jeff, Jenny, Jade and Hannah, write this letter to tell the plight of a family that love each other and wishes to stay together." This is misleading in at least one respect. Jade is five, Hannah is three. They did not write this letter. Grown-ups wrote this letter, just as grown-ups created this mess.

I do not know why the Bramleys decided that now is the time to tell all. Perhaps, after 17 weeks on the run, they are growing tired of it all. Undoubtedly they have become obsessed with their plight - who wouldn't be? - and have decided that the only way to right things is to tell the world about their injustice. Thus they sat down at their secret location and addressed a letter "To Whom It May Concern". The letter fills three-and-a-half sides and tells us much that is supposed to be secret. They say they are good, honest, caring people who were rejected as adoptive parents because they were observed to say "no" too often.

It is the kind of stuff that makes your heart ache and you can see that they really do believe that they wrote the letter for Hannah and Jade. But it was two adults who decided that the only way forward was to run away from the system. It was the adults who have now decided they want to come in from the cold. And now it is the adults who believe that the great god of publicity will somehow put things right.

They are not the only ones who believe this. "If only we could get this story out, everyone would see how crazy it is and they would let me keep my daughter," one young mother said to me years ago. She, like the Bramleys, had chosen to disappear with her child rather than abide by a social services decision. She, too, was outraged. She, too, had a heartbreaking tale and good reason to rail against a system that is secretive to the point of obsessive-



PC Peter Morley holding two coats belonging to Hannah and Jade Bennett, found in the car abandoned by Jeff and Jennifer Bramley

Manni Mason

ness. It was against the law for me even to talk to this mother. Eventually the High Court got involved. "The upbringing of a young girl is at stake here!" said a barrister. He was wrong, of course. What was at stake was not a child's life but a system that tries to be caring but can also be ruthless.

That mother never got her publicity, and I don't know what happened to her. If she is still out there, hiding, then she will be noting that the first result of the Bramleys' plea has been not vindication, but soap opera and chaos. Everyone who ever touched the lives of these girls has been getting in on the act.

First came the natural mother, Jackie Bennett. This is a woman who has given up her children, then fought to get them back, and now has decided that the Bramleys should have them after all. "I want my children to be settled in one place, in one school, with a loving

family like yourselves," she says. I'm not sure whether we should believe her, but it certainly grabbed yesterday's headlines.

The next one to care and share was Paul Duckett. He is the father of Jade but has never had much to do with her upbringing. Not that this stopped him from appearing on the *Today* programme. The Bramleys, he says, cannot really love the children. "If they did, they wouldn't be dragging them around England in this nomadic style." He loves Jade very much, he says, and "this is hurting me a lot." He added: "You don't see me writing these big letters. It's a play purely to get the public on their side."

Social services are also worried. Not, however, about whatever circumstances led to this sad situation. By the way, we still do not know everything about these circumstances. The Bramleys did allude to them in their letter but some bits of

it have not been printed. It just goes to show that, though the soap opera is played out in public, in private the system continues to protect itself. Secrecy remains paramount. It is often said that the system has to be so secretive to "protect the children". This is true almost all of the time but when it breaks down - and drives people to abduct children - then secrecy is part of the problem, not the solution.

Anyway, it turns out that Liz Raiton, director of Cambridgeshire Social Services, is also worried for the sake of the children. "Are they going to school? Clearly it seems not. Are they going to the doctor? Are they having contact with other children? They need all that contact." Then she appealed to the Bramleys "to put the children first, over and above their own distress - even though I know that is incredibly difficult". It was time, she said, to give the children back.

It is enough to make you want the Bramleys to stay fugitives for ever but, I suspect, this is not to be. It seems inevitable that they will come back, after making contact in such a dramatic fashion. In fact the letter shows two people who are desperate to come home: "Jade and Hannah are two bright, intelligent, articulate children who love us with all their hearts. We ask therefore, will someone help us to be legally their Mummy and Daddy for ever, making the hopes and dreams of these two wonderful girls come true." The Bramleys are looking for a fairy-tale ending. They want Jim to Fix It for them. They want someone to kiss it all better, just like that.

But if they are acting childishly, then they have company. All the grown-ups believe that they are right, and have found some moral reason why this is so. To hear Cambridgeshire Social Services going on about whether or not Jade and

Hannah are visiting a doctor beggars belief. The problem is not whether Jade and Hannah are visiting a doctor; the problem is that the system has messed up to such an extent that Jade and Hannah are fugitives whose foster-parents have had to appeal to the nation. That is what should be talked about, not doctor's appointments.

This is a dire state of affairs. The adults have messed up - and badly. In fact, if anyone should be giving lectures, it should be the children. Perhaps they should get their own lawyer to demand that all the grown-ups sit down now and figure out a way for the fugitives to come in from the cold and get a fair hearing. Then, after the adults all feel better, perhaps someone could figure out what really is in the best interests of these two little girls, who could be forgiven for thinking that unconditional love is a pretty hard thing to come by these days.

RIGHT OF REPLY

**PETER
MOORHOUSE**



The chairman of the Police Complaints Authority responds to criticism of their inquiry into the Lawrence case

THE INDEPENDENT'S criticisms of the PCA are surprising as when we supervised the investigation in 1997, and produced a summary report, it was described by *The Independent* as "a damning indictment of the inquiry into the racist murder of Stephen".

Your recent editorial omitted to say that charges would also have been preferred against four other officers involved, had they not retired. But we are not permitted to bring discipline charges against resigned or retired officers, under existing regulations.

The suggestion that "internal investigations are not tough enough to control a force that can mishandle witnesses, lose or destroy evidence, and ignore promising leads" is questionable. The authority would have charged all five senior officers for these very failings.

Effective liaison with victims of crime has long been a problem for the police service. The investigation concluded that the failures in this case lay with senior officers conducting the murder inquiry. It would be wrong to bring disciplinary action against inexperienced junior officers who attempted and failed to provide effective family liaison in this case.

The discipline review had to decide whether officers who took part in the murder inquiry breached the Police Discipline Code. The system demands that charges must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. The authority has pressed since 1991 for changes to the discipline system, including reduction in the standard of proof, and many of the changes are due to be implemented this April.

Critique the legal framework within which the PCA must work, and you would have our support. But to criticise us for working within the legal framework laid down by Parliament is unjustifiable.

Going East with the Bard

JANUARY IS traditionally the time for the annual family outing to see some Shakespeare. For anyone who has ever wondered why such trips often turn into fiascos of boredom and disappointment guaranteed to put children off the Bard for life, John Russell Brown's new book is a must.

Arguing that most British versions of his work "occupy only a part of the spectrum of what theatre can be", Russell Brown thinks that we have become used to viewing Shakespeare "through this distorting filter". To explore other ways of staging the Boring Bard, and to see what different theatrical traditions might offer, he goes East in search of enlightenment.

In Puri, south west of Calcutta, he sees a Jatra (touring) theatre; its performances start around midnight and end at 6.30am. In Bali, the exotic dance dramas that lit up Antonin Artaud's fevered mind in the Thirties



THURSDAY BOOK

**NEW SITES FOR SHAKESPEARE:
THEATRE, THE AUDIENCE AND ASIA**
BY JOHN RUSSELL BROWN. ROUTLEDGE, £12.99

leave him cold, but he is captivated by a funeral procession and cremation ceremony. In China, he parleys with thespians; in Japan, he witnesses today's dramatists and directors using traditions without growing stale.

Russell Brown sounds as if he had a good time. In one Indian district, he comes across a group of three actors who give all-night shows lasting 12 hours. With only three actors? Not problem, comes the reply, because as many as 40 audience members come on stage and improvise parts. But how can you keep an audience's interest

for 12 hours? Well, try this apple wine and smoke the "leaves of a locally grown herb". School trips to the local rep were never this much fun.

Once, a power failure cut off electric lights for a show in Kerala, southern India, leaving the stage lit only by a low-level lamp. The result was an unexpected optical illusion in which the actors seemed to float in the dark, evoking a "dream-like state". Bye-bye naturalism, hello visionary theatre.

But is this just another case of cultural imperialism? One bored former associate director of the National Theatre roams the world, picking up tasty hints from faraway cultures, and brings them home to spice up the West's jaded palate? Definitely not. Russell Brown does not want to plunder Third World theatre and import its gems. He prefers to learn from it and see what its methods might do for our stage.

For example, India's Kutiyattam theatre, which is both highly contrived and extensively improvised, provokes thoughts about how today's Shakespeare tends to be rehearsed to death. While, in the Thirties, Stratford productions had a two- or three-week rehearsal period, today's rehearsals stretch over as many as eight weeks. Lack of rehearsal makes actors improvise more and take greater risks, with the result that their acting is more alive. Long rehearsals mean careful, subtle and original interpretations that may put audiences to sleep.

Nor is unprepared acting alien to the British tradition. In 1922, Harley Granville-Barker (the actor, director



Kurosawa's film 'Ran' adapted 'King Lear' to medieval Japan

and dramatist) argued against carefully prepared, long-running productions. The art of acting "may profit a little by failure, but what it cannot endure is the numbing monotony of success". Highly polished performances are related to good acting, he said, as reproductions are to an original Rembrandt.

Let's imagine such ideas applied to today's Royal Shakespeare Company. Instead of the director-led, long-rehearsal institution, we would have 10 smaller companies working as actors' collectives. Actors would quickly learn their words and improvise on stage. There would be a different show every night. All the pricey scenery would go on the scrap heap; all the costumes to the Theatre Museum. Everyday clothes and common props would be used; audiences would be encouraged to cheer on the action.

Not only does Russell Brown want to change actors; he also wants to change audiences. Drawing on his experience of open-air theatre in India,

he shows how spectators there treat actors like sporting heroes, calling out encouragement, advice and praise. Even in Kabuki, with its extraordinary artifice, star actors are greeted by name when they first arrive on stage. The best way to kill such lively audiences is to put them indoors in darkened halls.

The last part of *New Sites for Shakespeare* argues for complete reform of the way the British bard is performed. Neatly written and jargon-free, Russell Brown's polemic is one of the best books about Shakespeare because it dares to ask a basic question: what's the point of drama? Even if you don't agree with his opinions about the reconstructed Globe Theatre, or think his views on today's touring companies are a bit outdated, his passion, energy and longing for excitement command attention. But beware: this book may encourage you to abandon your yearly outing to the theatre, and go abroad instead.

ALEXIS STIERZ

THURSDAY POEM

THE FAULTLINE
BY BERNARD O'DONOGHUE

When there's a sprinkle of snow
In mid-January, yet not enough
To stop it turning vein-translucent.
When young relationships freeze
And snap. When death, suddenly,
Crops up in the conversation
And no-one quite remembers
Who raised the subject. As far past
Solstice as November was before it;
No sign of spring, and no
Going back. All just serving
To show, in case we'd forgotten,
Our faultline: that we're designed
To live neither together nor alone.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Bernard O'Donoghue's new collection, 'Here Nor There' (Chotto & Windus, £8.99).



"With GEM you get so much more for your money."

Lucky Bloke?

Broken down - miles from home
and about to test GEM RECOVERY Now read on...

GEM RECOVERY is the most comprehensive, flexible and economical breakdown scheme available today. Do you qualify?

What it does

Everything you need - fast! A call to our freephone 24 hour Helpline and we'll get an authorised garage (usually within 35 minutes) to fix your car and we'll refund the labour cost. Or, if necessary, we'll cover the total cost of recovery to any address in the UK.

Alternatively, we'll pay for road or rail travel (return), and even

emergency hotel accommodation overnight for you and all your passengers. Beat that!

What it costs

A special introductory offer for the all-inclusive price of £41.50 (normally £46.50) gives you full membership of this superb Recovery Scheme.

Find out more

Call: 0645 645505 (local rate) now. You will discover that our members don't have to rely on luck. They have the wisdom that comes with experience.

Compare these prices for similar cover

	AA	RAC	GREEN LAG	GEM
All Options†	£113.00	£109.00	£110.00	£46.50



RECOVERY...

THE BEST BUY IN BREAKDOWN
from The Guild of Experienced Motorists

† Membership of the Guild is open to any owner holder of a driving licence for five years (during previous 10 years) in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is not available to those who are not UK residents.

FREE "KEYCARE"

worth £10.50 when you join GEM RECOVERY before 31/03/99. We will also refund to you for a year's membership of this superb recovery service for part keys absolutely FREE!

To: GEM PO BOX 42, FORD ROAD, EAST SUSSEX RH18 3YN

Please send me details of GEM RECOVERY ☐ EUROPEAN COVER ☐

Mr/Ms/Ms Address

Postcode TH Are you currently a member of? RAC ☐ AA ☐ GREEN LAG ☐ OTHER ☐

Date of renewal / / ☐ INITIALS

Jim Peters

IF THE "Mile of the Century" between Britain's Roger Bannister and Australia's John Landy was the most talked-of race in track and field history before its running on 7 August 1954 at the Empire Games in Vancouver, the marathon that had begun two hours earlier on the same afternoon was to become, thanks to Jim Peters, the stuff of athletics legend.

Bannister, who had run his four-minute mile earlier in the same year, did not disappoint his admirers and duly beat his great rival Landy in a truly memorable race. Barely 20 minutes later, as the temperature in the non-existent shade rose to 75°F against the rather incongruous backdrop of the snow-capped Grouse Mountains, the 35-year-old Peters, favourite for the marathon gold medal, entered the sun-drenched arena, weaving and swaying from side to side.

Sixteen men had begun the race but only six were to return. Peters, along with his countryman Stan Cox, took an early lead, passing the five-mile mark in 28min 15sec. The race wore on up the steep Kingsway and through the Vancouver streets, deserted thanks to viewers watching on television or in the stadium, but before long it was plain that all was not well. Peters passed the 20-mile post in 1hr 48min but Cox, by now about 400 yards behind, was beginning to feel the effects of sunstroke.

There was a heat haze over the roads and the melting tarmac began sticking to his rubber-soled shoes. Just before the 25-mile mark Cox became so groggy he crashed into a lamp-post but when he heard that Bannister had won the mile he got up and ran another 100 yards before the police led him away to a nearby ambulance.

Peters, who had set a new world record earlier that year and had covered more than 5,000 miles in training, struggled up the last two hills but arrived at the stadium gates in a dangerously dehydrated condition with the last 385 yards around the track to run. Staggering and clawing his way along on all fours and falling at least six times, he took 11 minutes to cover the first 200 yards.

Bannister, along with others at the track-side, could only watch, as they knew any attempt to assist Peters would disqualify him. Eventually, though, after crossing the photo-finish line nearly 200 yards short of the actual

finish line, he could go no further and with arms and legs still going through the motions of running he was carried off to hospital to join Cox, who was fighting for his life.

Peters spent the next seven hours in an oxygen tent during which time no less than half a gallon of saline solution and dextrose was fed into him intravenously. As the treatment took effect, the two men began to recover. Joe McGhee, meanwhile, an RAF officer from Scotland, had fallen over five times during the race and called for an ambulance, but when he heard that Peters and Cox were out of the race he got up and finished the course to win.

The psychological and physical reactions Peters suffered were so marked that he was advised by doctors to retire from athletics and he never ran again, although he always maintained he was robbed of the gold medal in Vancouver as the course was longer than the regulation 26 miles 385 yards.

Those appeals fell on deaf ears, but the Duke of Edinburgh awarded him an honorary gold medal on Christmas Eve of the same year for his gallantry, and

Staggering and clawing his way along on all fours, he took 11 minutes to cover 200 yards



Peters reaches the end of his Empire Games marathon, Vancouver, 1954

last year, to mark his 80th birthday. Peters was proud to receive the Duke's gold medals once again.

Born in Homerton, east London, but raised in Becontree in Essex, Peters was a useful schoolboy cricketer and footballer before taking up athletics. The outbreak of the Second World War interrupted his progress. Peters joining the RAMC, but afterwards, and by now a qualified optician, he returned to running, although he was disappointed to finish only ninth in the 10,000m at the 1948 Olympics in London.

Approaching the age of 30, he was tempted to retire, but his coach persuaded him to take up marathon run-

ning and engaged him in a series of innovative training techniques focusing on speed and strength routines. In 1952 he set the first of four world records for the distance with a time of 2:20:42.2 but failed to finish at the Helsinki Olympics owing to cramp.

The following year, however, with a running style that grew more and more exaggerated and led at times to blood seeping from his torso as his thumb-nail tore into his vest, he set two more world records and won four of the world's largest marathon races. Then, on 26 June the following year, with a time of 2:17:39.4 in the Polytechnic Marathon from Windsor to Chiswick, Peters

became the first man to run under 2hr 20min for the marathon.

In his later years Peters remained in touch with his club Essex Beagles and was a Rotary Club member near his home in Thorpe Bay in Essex. Prior to his death he had been fighting cancer for six years, and of those who witnessed his heroics in Vancouver or were among the millions to see it later on Motelone News, few would have been surprised that his final battle lasted so long.

ADAM SZRETER

James Peters, runner; born London 24 October 1918; married (one son, one daughter); died 9 January 1999.

Fabrizio De André

FABRIZIO DE ANDRÉ was the anarchist son of a wealthy industrialist, a native of Genoa who preferred Sardinia, and a singer-songwriter who was very sparing with his words: "I write songs and I speak," De André pointed out, whenever he came under pressure to do either of these things, "only if I have something to say."

In a musical career spanning 35 years, he came up with enough to fill only 19 LPs, including "best of" and live recordings. What he said, however, moved generations of young Italians, and had a profound effect on the nation's song-writing tradition.

With his jowly, deeply lined face, constantly half-obscured by smoke from a never-ending string of cigarettes, De André would not have looked out of place as a night-club crooner. But his intense, mesmerising ballads – of the outcast and downcast, of war and religion, of the inequities of power and capitalist might –

would have jarred in that atmosphere. Besides, such close and regular contact with the public would have been hell for this very private performer. "For years, I couldn't even get up on a stage without drinking a litre of whisky to steady myself beforehand," he confessed.

Yet music was the driving force in the life of De André who, as a teenager in the 1950s, would hawk his compositions around record producers in Milan. In 1968, at the age of 18, his first single "Nuovo barocchetto" ("Baroque Clouds") was released, sinking more or less without trace. He limped from medical studies to humanities and then law, playing his guitar in small-time Genoese bands and writing songs. Then in 1966, he penned "La canzone di Marinella" ("Marinella's Song"), which was recorded by the female singing star Mina. With £600,000 of royalties in his pocket, De André ditched university, and launched himself into a full-time musical career.

Unlike other popular political singer-songwriters of the 1960s and 1970s, De André made no secret of his intellectual leanings. "Tutti morimmo a stento" ("We All Died of Hardship", 1968) was a homage to the French poet Louis Villon, the album *Non al denaro, né all'amore né al cielo* ("Not For Money or Love or the Sky", 1971) was inspired by Edgar Lee Master's *Spoon River Anthology*, and *Nuvole* ("Clouds", 1990) drew on Aristophanes.

His fascination with folk traditions led him to blend Sardinian and native American music in his 1981 album *Fabrizio De André*. The musician David Byrne was deeply impressed – and influenced – by his *Creusa de mû* ("Mule Track by the Sea", 1984), songs inspired by Mediterranean culture and sung in Genoese dialect, which pre-dated the World Music boom.

Ever a champion of the underdog, De André sang his support for gypsies, sub-

cide cases and illegal immigrants. He lambasted hypocritical clients of prostitution, and the death penalty. And, for a while, he sympathised with bandits in his adopted home in Sardinia. Until, that is, they kidnapped him and his wife Dori Ghezzi in 1978, keeping them chained to a tree in the island's desolate heartlands for four months. The irony of the *anarchista buono* (the good anarchist) being ransomed for £600m – a vast sum at the time – by his wealthy capitalist of a father was lost on no one. De André, however, shrugged it off, and characteristically, turned the experience into "Hotel Supramonte", one of his best-loved works.

ANNE HANLEY

Fabrizio De André, singer-songwriter; born Genoa, Italy 18 February 1940; married Dori Ghezzi (one son, one daughter); died Milan 11 January 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

TOMLINSON: Lucy Margaret, died suddenly at home 7 January 1999 aged 59. Funeral at Worcester Crematorium, 21 January, at 11am. Loving mother, daughter, sister and friend.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal presents Worcester's 10th Anniversary Business Awards at the Royal Institution, London W1; as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, attends a Neighbourhood Safety Partnership Luncheon at Claridge's Hotel, London W1; and, as Patron, British Quality Foundation, attends a Founder Members Reception at St James's Palace.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr D. W. de Vos and Miss S. L. Pullen. The engagement is announced between Dirk, son of Mr W. de Vos, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Mrs A. de Vos, of Cape Town, and Samantha, daughter of the late Mr Lester Pullen and of Mrs Angela Pullen, of Nassau, Bahamas.

BIRTHDAYS

Captain Sir Alastair Aird, Comptroller to the Queen Mother, 68; Professor Sir Melville Arnott, cardiologist, 90; Mr Peter Barkworth, actor, 70; Miss Carol Bellamy, executive director of Unicef, 57; Mr Richard Briers, actor, 65; Baroness Brooke of Ystradfellte, former Vice-Chairman, Conservative Party, 91; Lady Byford, former President, Conservative and Unionist Association, 58; Lord Catto, president, Morgan Grenfell, 76; Miss Pave Dunaway, actress, 58; Mr Michael Foster MP, 35; Miss Maina

Gielgud, ballerina, 54; Miss Andrée Grenfell, former managing director, Glenby International, 58; Mr Brian Hardie, cricketer, 49; Sir Martin Holdgate, President, Zoological Society of London, 69; Mr Jack Jones, singer, 61; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, former Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, 71; Mr John Lever, Headmaster, Canford School, 47; Mr Warren Mitchell, actor, 78; Mr Trevor Nunn, theatre director, 59; Sir Neil Pritchard, former ambassador to Thailand, 88; Sir Vernon Scemmon, chairman, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, 71; Miss Caterina Valente, guitarist and singer, 68; Mr Bill Werbernick, snooker player, 43; Sir John Woodcock, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 67; Mr Roger Young, chief executive, Scottish Hydro-Electric, 55.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Benedict Arnold, soldier and traitor, 1741; Dr Albert Schweitzer, missionary surgeon, 1875; Hugh Lofting, writer, 1886; Hal

Roach, film producer and director, 1883; Sir Cecil Walter Hardy Beaton, photographer and stage designer, 1904. Deaths: Edmund Halley, astronomer, 1742; Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), writer, 1898; Humphrey DeForest Bogart, actor, 1957; Anais Nin, writer and poetess, 1977. On this day: The Great Frost Fair began on the Thames, 1205; the law requiring motorists to wear seat-belts was made permanent, 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony Pucci, St Barbassamas or Barbascemin, St Datus, St Felix of Nola, St Kentigern or Mungo, St Macrina the Elder, The Martyrs of Mount Sinai and St Sava.

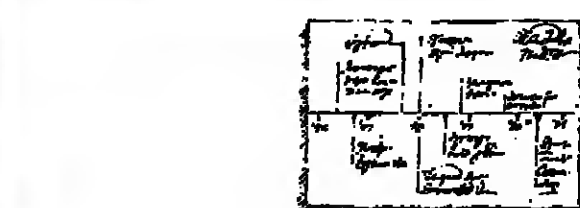
LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Portraits (II): Van Dyck, Equestrian Portrait of Charles I", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Bowles, "Rococo and the Decorative Arts", 2pm. National Portrait Gallery: Liza Vaughan-Hughes, "A Golden Quill: a programme

to mark the quatercentenary of the death of Edmund Spenser", 1.10pm. British Museum: Timothy Clark, "Harunobu and the Birth of the Japanese Colour Print", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Patricia Falkner, "Dutch Paintings", 1pm.

LEONARD CHESHIRE

Lord Putnam delivered the Leonard Cheshire Lecture yesterday at the Stationers' Hall, London EC4A. His subject was "Inclusion or Exclusion? – disabled people in tomorrow's society". Mr Jonathan Dimbleby and Sir David Goodall, Chairman of Leonard Cheshire (the Leonard Cheshire Foundation), also spoke. Among those attending were: Sir Patrick Walker, Leonard Cheshire International Chairman; Mr Bryan Dalton, Director General, Leonard Cheshire; Mr Ronald Trevelyan, Leonard Cheshire Caiden Jubilee Chairman; Mr David Grayson, Chairman of the National Disability Council; Mr Richard Gutch, Chief Executive, Action Care; Mr Bert Mason, Director, Reddy; Mr Bill McInnes, Chairman, UKICA; The Hon Sir Peter Ramsbottom; Ms Sue Sayce, Chief Executive, United Response; Mr James Strachan, Chief Executive, RNID.



HISTORICAL NOTES

MALCOLM BROWN

The long, slow road to Civvy Street

THE COMMON perception has it that the First World War came to its sensational dramatic halt on 11 November 1918 and that that was effectively that end of fighting, end of story. On the contrary, the ceasefire was followed by an unhappy coda which had many in high places wondering whether the Bolshevik plague then sweeping the Continent might overleap the Channel, with as its prime agent the very men who had won the recent astonishing victory.

"Keep the home fires burning / Till the boys come home", Ivor Novello's famous 1915 song was but one factor among many that produced a powerful urge among soldiers everywhere to get back to "Civvy Street". Immediately their job was done. Writing at 11.01 on Armistice Day an infantry sergeant in France stated in a letter home: "The question on everybody's tongue is 'When shall we get home?'"

The answer was slow in coming and deeply unsatisfactory when it came. The British government announced as its top priority the release of so-called "pivotal men": those who could be slotted back instantly into the running of the nation's economy. But this in effect meant: last in, first out. The earliest in uniform, those who by definition were the furthest removed from their pre-war civilian skills, were bitterly resentful. One officer marooned in far-off Persia wrote to his wife: "My con-

tract of three years or the duration has expired and all who joined when I did, 'The First Hundred Thousand', are surely entitled to our discharge first." It would be many angry months before such as he got home.

Some senior officers ignored the regulations. A Royal Engineers CO demobilised his companies strictly according to length of service abroad, which all concerned thought much the fairer way. He later commented: "I am sure that every officer who demobilised a Unit ought to have had the DSO. It was the hardest job of the war."

Eventually the Government conceded, but not before a surge of protest that in some cases produced that unthinkable consequence: soldiers refusing orders point-blank, even coming out on strike. On 3 January 1919 at Folkestone 3,000 men ordered to parade for embarkation for France flatly refused to do so. There was a similar demonstration on the following day at Dover.

Meanwhile there was a scatter of smaller disturbances in France. In Le Havre a 38-year old Warrant Officer with eight years of service in India behind him and a Mention in Despatches for gallantry in Gallipoli found himself branded a "Bolshevik" for taking a prominent part in agitation for demobilisation. His battalion was lectured by the CO on Bolshevism. The Warrant Officer commented in his diary: "British Prus-

tanism afraid of being upset." Further afield troops were still mounting massed meetings of protest in Egypt as late as April.

The Australians managed their demobilisation with rather greater success, because their commander, Sir John Monash, upheld the principle of "First come, first go". "Our demob is going on very steadily," wrote a "Digger" corporal in the spring of 1919. "The system is very fair, and upheld owing to that fairness by all the boys."

With hindsight it is clear that political motives played virtually no part in the British soldiers' disaffection: when Tommy said he wanted to go back to Blighty, he meant precisely that. A Royal Engineers sergeant would later comment: "It seemed as though the whole Army had become imbued with a spirit of revolt against the system which had held the individual for so long." But revolt did not mean that the soldiers were revolutionary; rather they were just "bloody-minded" at what they saw as a palpable injustice. In sum, they were far more likely to sing that favourite, heart-felt Tommies' dirge, "I want to go home", than ever to hurt into the "International". But they had made their point: they demanded, and finally got, fair play.

Malcolm Brown is the author of *The Imperial War Museum Book of 1918, Year of Victory* (Sidgwick & Jackson, £25)

County court's contempt jurisdiction

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

14 JANUARY 1999

M (a minor)

Court of Appeal
(Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward)
16 December 1998

If it so, how that power should be exercised, and whether the judge had been in error in the instant case.

Dennis Sharpe for the mother; the father in person; Alice Robinson (instructed by the Attorney General) as amicus curiae.

Lord Justice Ward said that the judge had had jurisdiction to act of his own motion. Pursuant to section 38 of the County Courts Act 1984, the circuit judge might make any order which could be made in the High Court if the proceedings were in the High Court.

There was no doubt that the High Court had power to make an order of committal of its own motion when the contempt was committed in the face of the court. Further, RSC Order 52, rule 5 was wide enough to apply to the present case had it been in the High Court and, by virtue of section 38 of the 1984 Act, it applied in the county court as well.

In the case of civil contempt the court had to bear in mind the extent to which knowledge of the breach had become a

matter of public concern, amounting to scandal capable of diminishing the authority of the court such as might lead to an increased flouting of its orders, and also the extent to which some interest other than that of the litigant was in need of protection.

The contempt had to be clear as well as flagrant. Pursuing a committal *ex mero motu* was a highly exceptional course to follow, particularly in family cases. The judge should always take time to pause for reflection, and should give an opportunity for the Official Solicitor to be invited to represent the child, or to report on the child's position. If the Official Solicitor saw a potential conflict, but the contempt was none the less clear and flagrant, there was no reason why the Attorney General should not be asked to prosecute the committal as *amicus curiae*. All remedies should be exhausted before the weapon of committal was wielded. The danger in initiating a committal which the affected party did not seek was that the judge was at risk of being seen to be acting to preserve his own dignity and to punish for the affront to him. That would distort the justification for the condign power of committal, which existed only to serve the ends of justice.

In the instant case the judge had misdirected himself and was wrong to have proceeded on his own motion, and the committal application would accordingly be struck out.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
relnquist, n.

AMONG THE well-read, breasts always arouse thoughts of an eminent Powell – not the novelist or the late politician, but the Supreme Court justice whose name was used for them by Gore Vidal in *Myron* (1975). It was a protest against censorship. Those two full syllables were well chosen. Meanwhile, Myra

wakes to find that Myron "has not only removed the delicate honeypot of every real American boy's dream but replaced it with A

Thing! A ghastly long thick tubular object... This relnquist has got to go!" In 1987, Vidal replaced it with "cock" – less prescient than usual, for this crosby of Nixon and Reagan, William Rehnquist, is now Chief Justice: such is destiny, his star's progress, that he deliberates over President Clinton's errant relnquist.

Angry with secular Britain, Muslims burnt *The Satanic Verses*. Ten years later, both sides have learnt respect. By Paul Vallely



Bradford rises above the ashes

Ten years ago today, a group of angry Muslims took a copy of Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Satanic Verses*, and burnt it in front of Bradford City Hall. Hardly anyone noticed at the time. But two weeks afterwards, in Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeini declared a fatwa to the effect that Rushdie's blasphemy warranted the death penalty.

Suddenly the Bradford book burning became a symbol of a new, oppressive, obscurantist threat to Western values of tolerance and freedom of speech. So much so that when Iran lifted the death threat last year, Rushdie was asked at the ensuing press conference whether he felt free to visit Bradford. In the intervening years there have been considerable changes in the Muslim community, and in society's attitude to it, as I found when I went back to the city to see those who had put the match to the offending pages. Bradford's Muslims, it transpires, have changed. But for better or worse?

The most impressive of Rushdie's opponents a decade ago was an angry young man named Shabbir Akhtar. He had arrived in Bradford from Pakistan at the age of eight but had gone on to study philosophy at Cambridge and had won footnotes many in the liberal camp by using their own language and methodology to argue in defence of fundamentalist certainties.

The received wisdom was that Muslims had no idea what they were unleashing when they lit the pages of Rushdie's novel. "The people involved were almost certainly ignorant of the tremendously emotive effect this would have on those brought up in the dominant Western culture, with its memories of Nazi Germany, and a deeply held belief in free speech." So said the report written after the 1995 Manningham riots, which brought Muslim indignation to a new pitch in Bradford six years after the Rushdie affair broke. In India and Pakistan, said the burning of flags, books and effigies are common forms of protest. "There is little understanding, within large sections of the Muslim communities, of the effect this incident had on white opinion," it said. It was not entirely true. "I thought there would be outrage," says Shabbir Akhtar, sitting in the front room of his small terraced home in Manningham, "but we were impotent and needed a dramatic ritual protest. The comparisons with Hitler were inappropriate: he was in power and burned many books; we were powerless and burned one copy."

The media portrayal of the burning as a dark and medieval act was ill-judged too: in England, as recently as the end of the 19th century, literature judged to be seditious or blasphemous was burned in lieu of the author, by the public hangman.

"The real resentment was not against the act but at these 'foreigners' taking

liberties in someone else's country."

Far from being an assault on the values of liberal democracy, he insists, Muslims were appealing to them. "Freedom of speech is not absolute; society is happy to constrain it to prevent racial violence. But many secular liberals suspended their values because they were dealing with a culture of which they had an instinctive dislike," he says. "They betrayed their own commitment to trying to understand the other point of view. They became liberal fundamentalists."

'Now there are three groups: one very religious and introspective, another secular and pleasure-seeking, while the third drifts in the middle'

Ten years on, he feels there would be no need to burn the book now. "The whole Rushdie affair was about exclusion," he says. "Today we would have other ways of protesting. The English intelligentsia is much more open now - inter-faith groups, academics, TV producers, newspaper editors and others are more open to listening. Then people thought the Muslim protest was mad, now they just think it was mistaken; in a culture where religion is taken so lightly, that's a big step forward."

Not that Rushdie should expect a wel-

come. But the issue has ceased to be a live one, says one of the others prominent on the Bradford Council of Mosques in the book-burning days. "The Rushdie affair surfaced two issues," says Ishtiaq Ahmed, now director of the city's Racial Equality Council. "One was the right of minorities to live according to their faith without being ridiculed. The other was that writers and publishers must have a sense of responsibility in exercising their freedom of speech. Both these have been acknowledged, by and large. The rest of society is

showing a much greater sensitivity." This, coupled with the rise of a new generation of professionals in business, education and the civil life of the city, is making Muslims more frank and open about dealing with issues such as the role of women in Islam. "A recent series of articles in the *Telegraph* and *Argus* [the local paper] on forced marriages was written in terms we can live with," Ishtiaq says. "We know we have to face these issues in the long-term relationship between the Muslim community and the rest of society."

"There is an increased willingness to talk about all this openly," he says, "and to acknowledge diversity instead of trying to affect an artificial unity. Diversity is now seen as healthy and to be cherished, not hidden or condemned."

There are signs that this is a two-way process, with the rest of society responding. Locally Muslims have more influence in the main political parties. Nationally the Government has conceded the principle that Muslim schools merit state funding just as Catholic or Jewish ones do. No one is saying the problems are over. But ask Khedim Hussain, a Bradford bus driver, what is the biggest difficulty facing Bradford Muslims and he replies: "The city centre is dying, businesses moving out, whole streets are empty of shoppers now."

This - like unemployment, poor housing, overcrowding and underachievement in schools - may hit the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities disproportionately. But these are problems shared with the rest of society. There may be a culture of desperation, says Shabbir Akhtar, but it's not restricted to Muslims.

One of the things which has struck him most on his return to Bradford after 10 years is the divisions which have developed in that younger generation which speaks with a Yorkshire accent.

"Before there was one group, all struggling with the tensions between two worlds. Now there are three groups: one

very religious and introspective, another that has become completely secular and pleasure-seeking, while the third drifts in the middle."

The same division is apparent to Ishtiaq Ahmed. "About 10 to 15 per cent have become very devout and more militant," he estimates. "They are vocal and uncompromising and have difficulties with their own community."

At the other extreme, he estimates there are another 15 per cent who have dropped their faith and bought the Western materialist package. In the middle are the 70 per cent who have weak links with the faith - who profess but don't practice, who might fast but don't pray and who only really feel Muslim in response to the foreign policy of the West in Bosnia, Afghanistan or the Gulf.

Currently, they are indignant over the Government's response to the detention of five British Muslims in Yemen - which they compare unfavourably with its reaction at the trial of the two British nurses in Saudi Arabia.

The older generation is uncertain what to do with children who are not just growing away from them, but doing so in such fragmenting ways. But there is a new confidence among the Bradford Muslims which cannot be denied. It would be foolish to predict that there will be no more burning of books, but the odds on it must be much reduced.



In 1989, Muslims rallied against alleged blasphemy. Today, Abu Hamza, inset, represents Muslims still at odds with Britain. Guezalian, Martin Godwin

POETIC LICENCE

THE OZYMANDIAS CLOCK

A desert site is being sought to locate a giant clock which will run for 10,000 years. The aim of the project is to build a global monument that will stimulate people to think beyond the normal concept of time. Sites in Egypt, Jerusalem, China and Nevada are being considered.

The first one thousand years or so
Were harder to portray
The clock would move its hands each year
And tick just once a day

It chimed its first millennium
One red and gold-leaf desert dawn
As rusted derricks, armoured cars
And tanks uncovered by the wind
Lay useless, their own monument
To centuries long out of mind

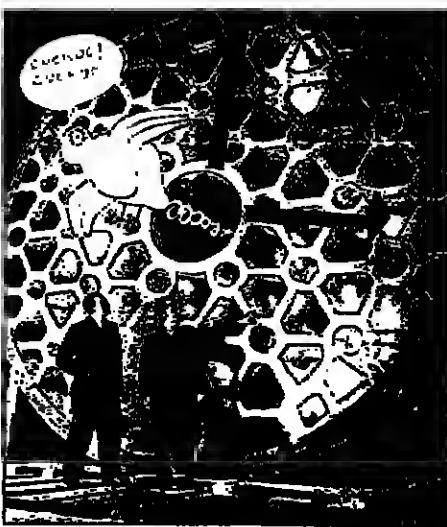
Above the desert, shooting wars
Still littered up the Milky Way
Rich lovers from a private plane
Took photographs and drank champagne
Made love upon the scorpion sand
Grew old and never came again

Once every twenty years it rained
Then flowers sprang up for a day

And as the sands were washed away
Numberless craft took to the sky
Whose occupants gazed down to see
An ancient caravanserai
Its faded Pepsi Cola sign
And petrol pumps millennia-dry

Later, a psychic railway ran
Disgorging tourists every night
Pale ghosts of men stared at its face
Then glided off in single file
While silent in the moonlight there,
Emaciated desert dogs
Ears down and cringing at the sight
Slunk out into the desert night

The clock still moved its hands each year
And ticked just once a day
The first one thousand years or so
Were harder to portray



Grin and bare it (if you must)

Everyone's stripping off these days. Here's 10 ways to satisfy those naked ambitions. By Emma Cook

TO BARE all or not to bare all is no longer a valid question. It's where you do it, with whom and what with. In this month's *Tatler*, the millennium's most talented are united by more than their achievements and aquiline features. They're practically naked. But taking your kit off can be an imprecise art. When Abigail Saxton, a BBC producer, streaked at a Christmas party she almost lost her job. Proof that any fool can do it, but few can get away with it. So here's what you need to remember...

- 1) Only do it if you're pushy. Don't be fooled: nudity is not the great equaliser. If you've got a double-barrel name and a degree from Oxford, you can get them out for the boys with impunity. Flashing what it takes won't tarnish a high-brow literary career. See Amanda Foreman, historian and Whitbread finalist, in *Tatler*. Her books got a full frontal but she didn't (she stands behind them naked). Smart.
- 2) Never go the whole way. See Christine Keeler and that chair, and never opt for an Eames. Unless your naked ambition stretches to implants and a Channel Five chat show avoid Page Three.
- 3) Style over content. Think tasteful. Glossy magazines not tabloids. Remember prop is really another word for product placement; see Amanda Foreman and *that* biography.
- 4) Stay upmarket. Arty films and posing for Lucian Freud is acceptable. As Irena Brignoll, script editor for *Shakespeare In Love* and another one of *Tatler*'s "bare geniuses" says, "I was extremely



Baring all: McGregor, Paltrow and shopping naturalists

flattered to be asked to be included among a list of people I so admired."

- 5) Don't do it if you're over 40. Amanda Foreman told one newspaper: "You're only young once and I'm certainly not going to do it when I'm 40."
- 6) Don't do it if you're under 20. Timing is all. Teenage glamour shots will haunt you forever.
- 7) Nudity is a girl thing. Naked men just aren't so in demand. Ewan McGregor was desperate to strip off on stage but the producers refused.
- 8) Don't do it if you've got a boyfriend. When Gwyneth Paltrow insisted on stripping for a love scene with Joseph Fiennes in *Shakespeare In Love*, her boyfriend Ben Affleck, now ex, objected.
- 9) Don't do it while you're shopping. This week naturalists wanted to shop at Tesco. If you do play the nude card, a glamorous setting helps - the frozen goods section of your local supermarket is to be avoided.
- 10) Just don't do it. PR supreme Max Clifford says: "Nine times out of 10 it cheapens anyone who does it."

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

No. 2772 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the shareholders of the company named in the above notice shall be held at the offices of the company named in the above notice on the date and at the time specified in the above notice.

Any creditor or shareholder of the company named in the above notice who is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting of the shareholders of the company named in the above notice shall send a copy of the notice to the company named in the above notice at the address specified in the above notice at least 14 days before the date of the meeting.

Dated 12 January 1999.
Solicitors for the company named in the above notice.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the shareholders of the company named in the above notice shall be held at the offices of the company named in the above notice on the date and at the time specified in the above notice.

Any creditor or shareholder of the company named in the above notice who is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting of the shareholders of the company named in the above notice shall send a copy of the notice to the company named in the above notice at the address specified in the above notice at least 14 days before the date of the meeting.

Dated 12 January 1999.
Solicitors for the company named in the above notice.

SLIMASTER LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 90 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of the company named in the above notice on the date and at the time specified in the above notice.

Any creditor of the company named in the above notice who is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting of the creditors of the company named in the above notice shall send a copy of the notice to the company named in the above notice at the address specified in the above notice at least 14 days before the date of the meeting.

Dated 12 January 1999.
Solicitors for the company named in the above notice.

Coins & Medals

INDEPENDENCE
Quality Value Service
BRITISH DESIGNED & BUILT
SAVE
BUY DIRECT
from
THE
BRITISH
MANUFACTURER
RENT OR BUY
FREE HOME TRIAL
0800 018 2603
Not Just a
British Company... A BRITISH MANUFACTURER

To advertise in this section
please call Siobhan Mc Caul
on 0171 293 2347.

Metro Hearts

Someone
for Everyone
Gemini - Mercury
Place your FREE
Voice Personalities and Adverts
0800
216 351
Voice Personalities appear each week
in The Independent on Sunday

Unusual Gifts

A NEWSPAPER for that special date, 1643-1899 most titles available. Ideal birthday gift. Personalised. Call 0181-898 0323. Or call FREE 0500 680 000.

Music Instruments

Bluetones Sales Ends 5 pm Saturday 10 January. Final Reductions on Quality Upright and Grand Pianos. For Unbeatable Prices call us Free on 0500 0180 630. Bluetones, 6 Berkeley Square, London W1.

Don't forget to mention

The Independent when replying to adverts

اصحاب الامم

It is every parent's nightmare to lose a child. Geneviève Jurgensen lost two in a car crash. How did she cope? By Louise France

'I know I will never recover'

The French newspaper headline is brutally informative: 50 people die on roads in France on New Year's Eve, it says. Geneviève Jurgensen, a 52-year-old journalist and author, rolls her eyes heavenwards. A pensive, well-dressed woman, sitting in her elegant high-ceilinged apartment in Paris, she's all too familiar with the statistics. Nineteen years ago her daughters, Mathilde and Elise, were killed on a French road. They were seven and four. They lost their lives before they'd lost more than two milk teeth.

In Britain there are 3,500 deaths on the roads annually. In France the figure is 9,000. Geneviève Jurgensen knows precisely how the families of the new year fatalities will be feeling. For them there will be, she says, with a sad shrug of her shoulders, "hell and flames".

Eleven years after her daughters died, Geneviève Jurgensen started writing a

'My first thought was, this is beyond human strength. This is beyond what I can face'

book about Mathilde and Elise and how she and her husband, Laurent, survived their deaths. Lucid, moving and beautifully written, *The Disappearance* was a best-seller in France and has just been published in Britain.

She smiles, and says she would prefer to talk about something else. "I love to laugh," she says, "I am, naturally, a happy person. I'd much rather talk about Shakespeare and poetry. But now I know - and perhaps it took writing this book to admit it - that whatever happens to me is related to my children's deaths. I have abandoned the idea that one day I will recover. This is now how I understand life."

On 30 April 1980 her daughters were being driven to see their paternal grandmother by Geneviève's sister-in-law and her husband, Aline and Christian. The couple's baby sat between the two sisters in the back seat. A 22-year-old Belgian, who had been drinking, overtook them and rammed into the side of the car. Aline controlled the vehicle and brought it to a halt on the hard shoulder, only to find that the collision had catapulted Mathilde and Elise out of the open window. They were already dead when Christian found them, 1 metres apart on the tarmac.

That night when the telephone rang, her mother thought nothing of it. She was absent-mindedly glancing at herself in the mirror when she heard that her two children, her only children, had been killed. Softly, she shut the girls' bedroom door. No one expects their children to die before they do. Least of all do parents expect to have their whole family wiped out. "My first thought was, this is beyond human strength," she says now. "This is beyond what I can face."

People said that one day she would write about it, but for 10 years she was repulsed by the idea. "Writing would have been a way of mastering the pain and I didn't want that. I loved them so much I didn't want the pain to fade."

But in 1991, when a friend who hadn't



met her daughters asked her about them, she sensed in him a humanity to which she responded. They agreed that she should write him letters about the lives of Mathilde and Elise, the things they said, how their characters were beginning to form, the way she buttoned up their red and blue raincoats on the day she saw them for the last time. Letters, too, about their deaths, and about the "hell and flames" that came afterwards. She wrote the letters when she felt like it, in longhand and on whatever notepad came to hand. Her friend did not reply but he treasured each one and when, two years later, he remarked that they had begun to sound more like a diary than an exploration of mourning, they decided that it was time to stop. These letters became the basis for her book.

Almost a year to the day after the tragedy - with "unspeakable luck" as she puts it - she gave birth to her third daughter, Elvire. Elvire is 17 now; her brother, Gauthier, is 14. Without them it is too awful to speculate where Geneviève would be today. With them, she is remarkably articulate on life touched by death.

"The first year is the worst," she says. "You go through each of the four seasons remembering what you were doing the year before." She saw her children's faces wherever she went. She would hallow Mathilde's name just to hear the very sound of it again. She would look at teenagers in wonderment and ask herself how their mothers had been able to keep them alive.



Geneviève Jurgensen: 'The first year is the worst.' Above, the daughters she'll never forget, Elise, left, and Mathilde



Alistair Miller

Feverishly, she says, she read every letter of condolence. For people who were too embarrassed to approach the couple, she has only scorn. The parent of one of her daughter's classmates would stand behind her in the queue at the baker's hut never spoke to her again - "It was more important for her not to look foolish than to go out to a mother who no longer had any children." It still angers her.

Robbed of their roles as mother and fa-

ther, the Jurgensens discovered that they now needed to be parented. "We relied on friends, who would say, 'You're coming with us to the theatre tonight'. Or, 'No, you can't go home alone.' One of the worst aspects was the feeling that people put them on a pedestal. "We were like statues, honoured for our bravery. Yet we felt so alone. We needed people to be themselves and yet they could not be."

Faced with such devastation many re-

lationships would have collapsed, but the marriage has remained strong. Laurent and Geneviève met in their early twenties - "It was love at first sight" - and it was the desperate desire to return to the happiness they had known with their young family that sustained them in the early Eighties. "Both of us were conscious that we would have preferred it if one of us had died rather than the girls... But we had been very happy, and happy people are better equipped to start again. We were desperate to have children and find the same happiness again. Making love when you want another child is close to instinct. We would turn to each other frantically, clinging to one another."

Geneviève needs people to know what she is feeling, whether she is happy or sad. Laurent, an architect, is more private (though pleased that his daughters were being remembered by his wife's book he was acutely apprehensive about the exposure). But they instinctively agreed about the way to mourn - "without restraint" as she puts it - and this bond sustained them. "Although you have to remember that your sorrow is not the only one. You live with someone who is sad too."

She is still lost for words to describe her feelings about the man who drove the car that caused the accident. He was fined, but allowed to keep his licence. In 1983 Geneviève set up a pressure group with another mother who had lost her daughter in a traffic accident. Drink-driving and speeding are part of the culture on the roads in

France but the campaign has been instrumental in reducing fatalities from 13,000 a year to the current figures. She took part in every debate about "la violence routière" (road violence) - a phrase that the charity invented, and which has become part of the French language. In 1992 she had a private meeting with President Mitterrand to instigate a points system on French driving licences. The nation's truck-drivers went on strike in protest, but a law was finally passed. The group also won a campaign to lower the allowable levels of alcohol in blood.

Nearly 20 years on, Geneviève worries about the effect of the deaths on her two living children. Looking back on Elvire's early life she believes that although she saved her sanity, it was too soon to have another child. "For months I was in another world still." It wasn't until Gauthier came along that she began to recover.

If Mathilde, the eldest, had lived she'd be 26 now. Sometimes her mother imagines what her life would have been like. She'd have met a man she loved by now,

'I have abandoned the idea that one day I will recover. This is now how I understand life'

she thinks, just as Geneviève did. Perhaps she'd be getting married. She watches her friends preparing for their daughters' weddings and wonders what it would have been like for her. "I think Elvire feels a pressure to accomplish the good things in life for three girls - herself and her two sisters. I apologise. But I this is the mother she has. She can't change it."

Gauthier started reading his mother's book but put it down after three pages. "He said it was just too sad," Elvire has read it, and set up a young person's version of Geneviève's pressure group. Is she proud? "Proud, but annoyed too," she says. "We've given enough. I would like to move on." And indeed, every time a new day dawns their lives do move on. But it's difficult. Four years ago they moved across the Seine to their apartment near the Eiffel Tower. It was a wrench. "Every tree, every corner, every person who knew me knew my children too. Now I have no reminders." Thirteen months ago Geneviève's mother died, and with her another link with the past.

She expects that in about five years' time Gauthier will leave home and then she and Laurent will be alone again. "I worry that it is then that my older children will come back into my memory," she says. "I still miss them, but I am no longer sure what I miss. It was all so long ago and they were so young."

"I feel as though someone is faintly crying inside me. In a way my life is waiting for the day when I can meet them again. When I die I can take my place beside them. "I do have a happy life, however gross it seems to say it. But if I went back to being 15 again and someone said, this is the deal: you will have two children; you will lose them; you will have a happy life afterwards - I'd have said 'No thank you. Keep it all!'"

'The Disappearance' (Flamingo, £12.99). Geneviève Jurgensen will speak at the French Institute, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7, 19 Jan at 6.30pm. Free

Is it OK for men to kiss each other?

Jon is friends with a man who has two children and who believes in hugs and kisses for both boys and girls. Jon's wife kisses everyone when they meet; Jon kisses everyone except the father, who he shakes by the hand. Is there any other gesture he could make to show closeness, without embarrassing them both?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

The reason that deciding how to greet people can make one cringe these days is simply because the customs are in a complete state of flux. Fifty years ago sons called their fathers "Sir" and shook their hands on meeting; no bugs between men are commonplace. If my friends are anything to go by, kisses on the cheeks, and even kisses on the lips are quite the norm, though I have to say that when it comes to lips I usually avert my mouth at the last minute, like a baby when you try to offer it a full mouthful of food. Cheeks, yes lips, no. (Secretly, as an uptight Englishwoman, handshakes suit me.)

Just as far as men go, probably the average state of play at the moment is that fathers and sons hug, and so do young men and close friends. Handshaking men are allowed to hug on special occasions, like at funerals or weddings. But recently, observing how men react when they meet has thrown up some weirdly different behaviour.

There's the slap on the shoulder, there's the whack on the back, or even a bit of hair-mussing. (This is a tremendously peculiar one. Imag-

ine if you were a woman, and a girlfriend came up to you, extended her painted fingernails, and proceeded to muss up your hair. You'd be livid. However, some men see it as a sign of affection.)

Then there's an extraordinary American meeting ritual, in which, one American punches the other on the chest, and the other reels back jokingly, bouncing about, making boxing movements. Utterly baffling.

Some reasons given for our formality have included the fact that we live in a cold climate, and our beastly weather doesn't encourage large, expansive gestures; or that we live on an island and are crucially aware of our limited space.

But those reasons don't wash with me. I think the great anxiety of Englishmen is that if they embrace too closely they might be thought to be gay. Continentals, who are much easier with their sexuality, or at least appear to be, have far fewer hang-ups about greeting other men. They kiss each other to bits, bug, and even long after the greeting is over, one may still have his arm around the shoulder of the other.

Funnily enough, even the most rigid of Englishmen can cope with this behaviour from a Continental.

They know exactly what it means, and never fear a surreptitious stroke on the bottom while the hug is taking place.

I have two thoughts for Jon. One is that he should simply tell himself he's a handshaker, always has been and always will be. A hug and a kiss is fairly meaningless; Jon's real love and affection for his friend will always show in other, more practical ways. Or, if he wants to become a new man, he should start slowly. At the next meeting, use two hands to shake his friend's one; at the next shake his hand but put a hand on his lower arm. Then shake his hand while putting the other hand on his shoulder and giving him a tremendous pat. At the next meeting, shake his friend's hand at the same time as drawing him a bit closer and patting him on the back.

Then it is really up to his friend to draw closer and, before he knows it, be drawn into a hug.

Of course, if they don't meet regularly it would be about 2005 before they reach this stage. But by then the customs of bow to greet other will, hopefully, be thoroughly sorted out.

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



Do what feels right. As a prickly teenager I spent the summer with a close-knit Scottish family. The father drove me to catch a train for school, dropping off his sons on the way. They kissed goodbye openly, yet in my world, at that time, even mother's kisses were something to be wary about. At the station I extended my hand. He took it between his for a moment, and then enveloped me in a bear hug. I can still feel in my memory and which lightened my heart for hours.

Forty years later, a young man aged all of six told me firmly he was now too big to be kissed. Certainly, I said, we should always greet people in a way that makes them feel good. The trouble was, I felt too old not to be kissed. Next time we met, I duly shook his hand, after which he jumped up to clasp his arms round my neck like a monkey. This has been our private ritual ever since, a deadpan formal handshake followed by the joyous embrace ANON

Attitudes have changed. More males indulge in hugs these days, without embarrassment. This

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

need not involve a kiss, even if cheeks touch. Overcome your prejudice, and give your friend a hug! ROBIN BUTTERELL
Chester

No one will be offended. My Albanian husband was brought up to kiss his male friends and relatives on each cheek whenever they meet. When greeting my male friends or relatives, he forgets they

are not of his ethnic background and has usually kissed them before they realise what's happening.

Often I have needlessly held my breath, awaiting horrified expressions. People are either so involved in furies of hugging and kissing that they don't realise who's doing what, or they look flustered by his affection! So go on, show some of yours! SOPHIE DEHRAMI
London

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, My 24-year-old son has never stuck at anything. Although he's extremely clever, he left school without taking any A-levels. He's done a variety of courses - a foundation course at art school, and a business management course which he dropped out of. He started a course of art history, which I paid for, but he left after one term. Now he just stays at home, gets up late and watches TV. I feed him but don't give him money. I suspect he gets it from a bit of

drug-dealing. His father wants to throw him out, but I feel he'll get deeper into drugs and end up in prison. What can I do? He's a lovely person in himself. Yours sincerely, Anne
Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Ironside. Please send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

Love and human remains

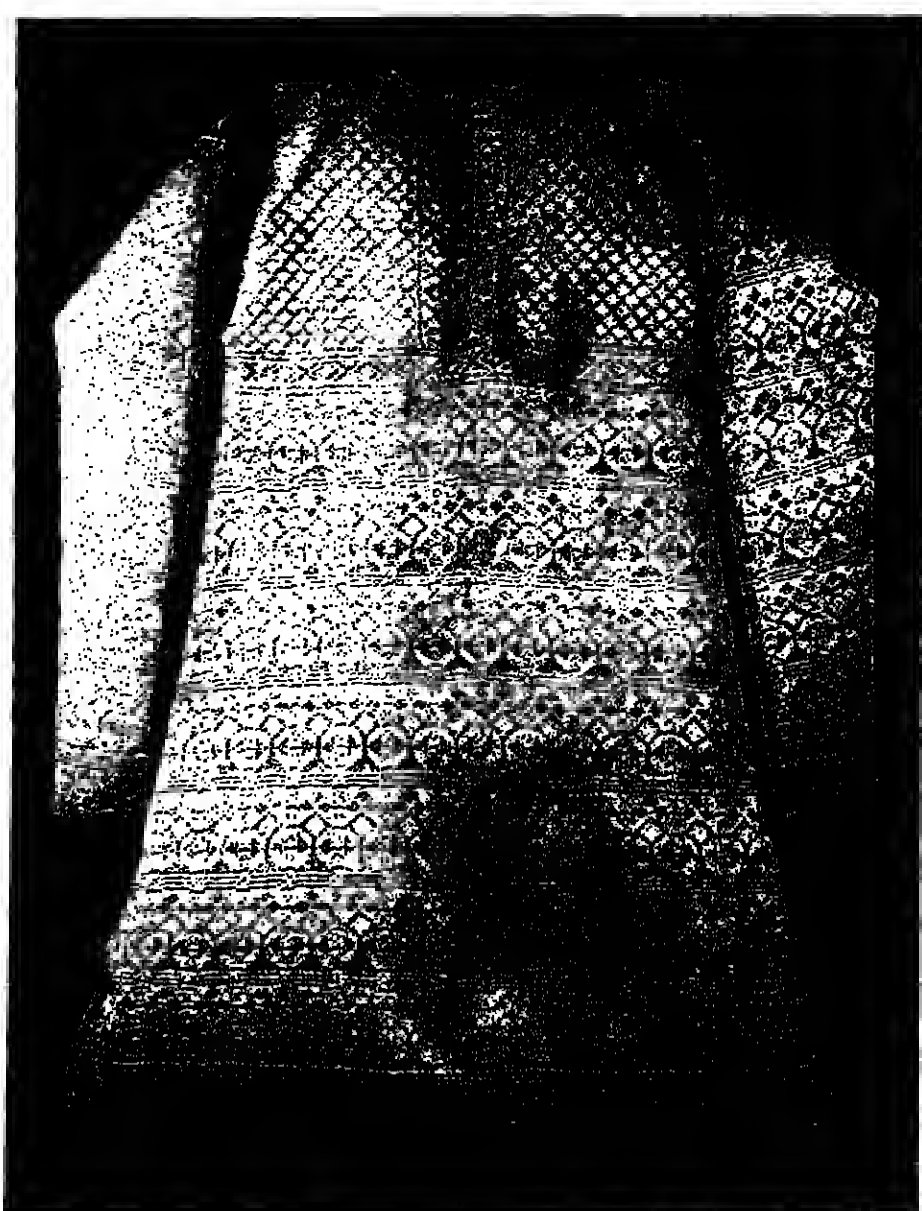
An old pair of spectacles, a stained waistcoat, a faded love letter... Why do the lifeless artefacts that make up cultural memorabilia have such a hold on the imagination? By Michael Glover

Charles I and Oliver Cromwell, rex and regicide, make for uneasy bedfellows, but that has not deterred the Museum of London from mounting an exhibition of memorabilia of the two men in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Cromwell's birth and the 350th anniversary of Charles's execution.

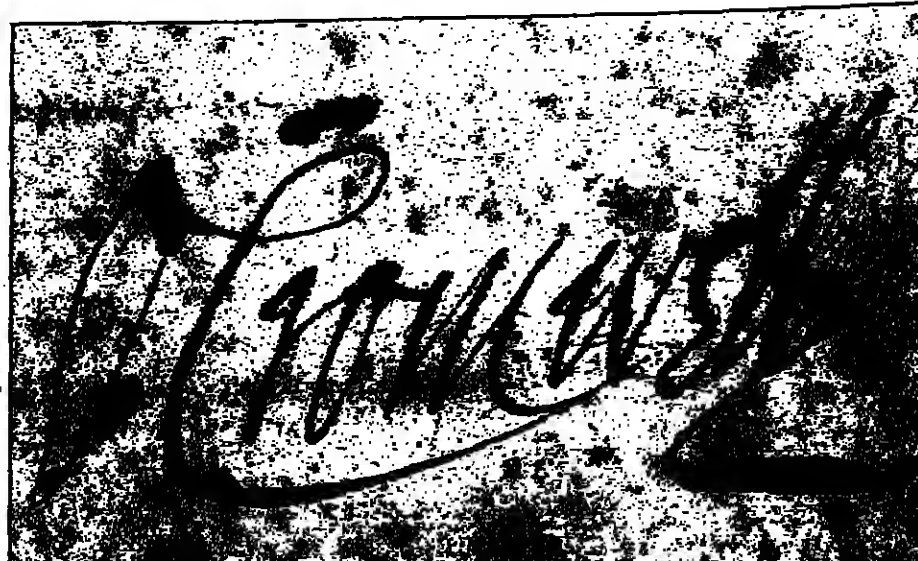
"Cromwell: Warts and All" includes the death mask, a fragment of buff jerkin, and an elaborately mounted leather button from Cromwell's doublet, accompanied by a parchment label which reads: "This is one of the buttons that was on the coat of Oliver Cromwell when he sent to judge King Charles, taken off by my grandfather, John Hardingham, who was one of Oliver's lobbyists (Redcoats) and attended him in all his wars in England and Ireland." That degree of awkward plainness has the ring of truth about it.

Other items such as the florid French portraiture and all those statuettes that were in the wake of Thomas Carlyle's famous 19th-century edition of *Cromwell's Letters and Speeches* lie somewhere between hagiography and special pleading. What is undeniable is that the face of the statuettes looks little like the man whose features speak volumes from the death mask: that powerful nose, those broad cheeks, the brutality of the long mouth...

Memorabilia is always a shock, but especially those artefacts that have been worn, owned or used – such as the waistcoat displayed here that Charles is said to have worn to his execution, with its eternally intriguing pattern of ghastly stainings. "Did he kneel, lie or stoop over the 10m-high execution block?" we are invited to speculate. It is only as time passes, and the individuals are captured by later admirers for partisan reasons, that the artefacts, mere lifeless objects of commemoration now, lose their hold on our feelings. But why should this be so? What is it about the spectacles used by John Wesley that we can see in the Wesley Chapel on City Road? Or the couch on which Emily Brontë died that is still to be seen in the chilly parlour at the Haworth Parsonage? Or the various touching love tokens to Fanny Brawne at the Keats Museum in Hampstead? Or Wordsworth's ice skates, displayed in that cabinet in Dove Cottage?



Memories are made of these: Cromwell's signature; his death mask; and Charles I's waistcoat, said to have been worn on the scaffold



Museum of London

As far as writers are concerned, the problem lies with the art of replication, and what that comes to signify. A book or a poem, though usually written by one person, loses the distinctive imprimatur of its maker as soon as it is circulated. If it is successful as an act of communication, it becomes the property of its readers by virtue of its content. If it appeals widely, it is because its creator, by successfully exploring universal-interesting themes, has touched the minds and hearts of a great audience. It is now as much the reader's property as the writer's. The book is now out in the world, a universal document, and an abstraction, not bound to its particular maker as it was during those days, months or years of its painful, private gestation. It has gained a peculiar authority of its own which a mere man or woman, bartering us from a high stool in a pub, would find it more difficult to claim. After all, mere human beings are imperfect. We can see that with our own eyes, or examine our consciences. An excellent book represents, by contrast, a kind of cold,

finished perfection, almost inhuman in its ruthlessly successful designs upon our time. What happens, then, when we come upon that lock of hair that pair of small spectacles, that strangely small and narrow ice skate? First of all, doubts assail us. What had seemed almost universal – some idea of the greatness of William Wordsworth and his poetry, for example – is, all of a sudden, particularised once again, and we experience a strangely mingled variety of feelings: were we right to

have such reckless trust in the words of this man or woman? It also reminds us that the words we had read were written in particular circumstances, amid midweek down the walls, the trawling of young children, the inquisitiveness of stray dogs. After all, in so many respects, this writer must have resembled you and me. At first, this may cause us to question the power of print. What right had it to seduce us into believing that what appeared before our eyes had any authority?

And then other, mellower feelings supervene – the thought that we could perhaps have done the same sort of thing ourselves if we had only had the talent, the luck, the perseverance, or the rich, aristocratic friend... And also the thought that it was surely some kind of a miracle that so much came out of so little, out of a mere human life, whether – in the case of Oliver Cromwell – for good or ill.

That is a question which remains undecided to this day.

And then other, mellower feelings

To 28 Feb. Information: 0171-600 3699

Axaxaxas Mlo and other tall stories

A FEW years ago The Shout, the 15-strong choir put together by the composer Orlando Gough and the composer/singer Richard Chew, would have been called a bold experiment. But Tuesday night's performance was so well organised, conceived, written and performed (and, importantly, well funded) that you couldn't possibly call it an experiment – it was a huge success.

The choir is a smaller spin-off from *The Shouting Fence*, the fantastic outdoor piece that Chew and Gough devised for the open spaces, concrete balconies and steps around the Hayward Gallery, and one of the highlights of last summer. Something like 80 energetic performers, amateur choirs, children's groups

and professional jazz and straight singers graced some of the bleakest vistas of the South Bank Centre with a vibrant piece of three-dimensional music-theatre.

Indoors requires a rather different approach, so after half an hour of Scanner's quiet ambient sounds, the choir took to the stage in a horse-shoe shape to attack Chew's complex and impressive "Tall Stories" with great energy and conviction.

After an interval, five of the singers returned for a dramatic performance of Gough's "Axaxaxas Mlo", a Borges-inspired sequence that, at times, threatened to escape into abstraction. Fortunately the sheer intensity of the piece – and its realisation – held the audience's at-

ention, as the quintet sang, chanted and made beautiful noises by candlelight, framed by a wide brick arch at the club's far side. For the final piece, Gough's "Why Do You Sing", the full 17-strong choir returned to the main stage, filling the small space with a joyful, complex noise that was still totally unamplified, with impressive solos from Mike Henry, Wayne Ellington and Angela Elliott. Occasional uncertainties and glitches may have revealed a lack of

time for rehearsal or revision, but the event was a robust, unpretentious success for all concerned. The club context worked fine – the sympathetic audience clearly relished the opportunity to listen to intelligent music with a drink to hand.

A feature of *The Shout* is the expressive use of a variety of vocal timbres – from full-blown "operatic" vowels through natural singing, to more earthy sounds. There was plenty of bravura writing – tumbling ladders of counterpoint, dissonant clusters, rhythmic riffs and chants, and special effects – yet you never heard this as an abstracted choir. Distinctive voices such as Melanie Pappenheim's, Jeremy Birchall's and Chew's, are discernible in the

acoustic mix. This is not hybrid or "fusion", but a practical and constructive coming-together of styles, traditions, and musicians, that makes a lot of contemporary vocal music – and a lot of contemporary club music for that matter – sound silly, institutionalised and redundant. Ensembles such as *The Shout* and *Gogmagogs* and events such as *The Shouting Fence* are showing the way for a more meaningful form of music theatre in the future.

The event was billed as being "framed by a sampled sound mix" by Robin Rimbaud (aka Scanner), whose low-density sounds, originally sampled from *The Shout*, provided an effective contrast to the intense contemporary choral music.

Most people seemed to appreciate the *Shout/Scanner* contrast, but Rimbaud was unhappy, expecting something more in the way of collaboration (and deserving a more comfortable space to work in). Rimbaud's best work has used frequencies that work with and around spoken voices – the found conversations he scans from mobile phone networks; Harriet Walter's monologue in a radio version of Copeau's *La Voix Humaine*. The sounds he provided on this occasion were transparent enough to provide a background for conversation, yet interesting enough to reward quiet attention if you preferred solitude; genuinely ambient, in fact.

JOHN L. WALTERS

Guilt in all its subtle shades

THEATRE
THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE
TRICYCLE THEATRE
LONDON

IT IS a rare night at the theatre that begins with the director announcing that the price of the ticket includes a concessionary rate for taking a basic St John Ambulance course in first aid, or that ends with a minute's intense communal silence in remembrance of a dead youth whose murderers have, scandalously, yet to be brought to justice. Scrupulously directed by Nicolas Kent, from transcripts edited by Richard Norton-Taylor, *The Colour of Justice* is an enormously potent, staged re-enactment of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. First aid is stressed because the police's first dereliction of duty at the scene of that crime was a failure to give his stabbed, bleeding body proper medical attention.

The piece is in the noble tradition of the Tricycle Theatre's similar staging of the "arms to Iraq" Scott inquiry and the Nuremberg trials. In the former, the cock-eyed Alice



Society confronts itself: Tricycle Theatre's staging of the Lawrence inquiry

Through the Looking Glass logic of the ministers provoked a kind of delighted intellectual outrage. But there was nothing about the snorts of sickened laughter produced here by the parade of grim-faced, edgy and occasionally furious witnesses from the police, with their refrain of "I don't remember", their seemingly institutional tendency to mislay things permanently and their apparent difficulty with

even the concept of racism. The unpatronising performances are careful not to make these figures animated "wanted" posters: the colour of culpability comes in subtly different shades. But the cross-examinations conjure up an almost farcically sordid world of corrupt collusion where, say, the key eyewitness can be put in the special "protection" of the very police officer who is professionally wooing the crim-

inal father of a key suspect. Why go to the theatre to see this? In his *Independent on Sunday* review of the "arms to Iraq" re-enactment, Irving Wardle put his finger on the value of such an exercise: "The act of framing this event on stage," he wrote, "puts it under a piercing light and renews the original sense of shock... it also reasserts the theatre's role as a supreme invention of democracy." It is, par excel-

lence, theatre as an image of society confronting itself.

It is important, though, to guard against more liberal-than-thou self-congratulation because one has participated in a collective ritual of indignation with a mixed-race audience. Indeed, the witness who moved me the most was the Irish Catholic, Conor Taffie (beautifully played by Tim Woodward). A genuine Good Samaritan, he actually went to help Stephen Lawrence as he lay bleeding at the bus stop.

It is significant that this instinctively virtuous man was also the readiest to admit in court that, because the youths were black, he initially thought it was a trick to mug him. An awareness of the reflex racism within us is the first step to overcoming it. A good man is prepared to acknowledge it. The police, still denying institutional racism, decline to do so. That's the profound lesson of this excellent evening.

PAUL TAYLOR

To 6 Feb. Booking: 0171-328 1000. A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

Out of space and time

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET:
ROMEO AND JULIET
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

each other in the verismo of the crowd sequences. And so, during the ball, there are the vivid simultaneous pockets of drama among the guests, with Lord and Lady Capulet shuttling desperately around trying to control Juliet, to separate Tybalt and Romeo, to placate Paris. Yet how sad, this time, to watch such a stiff account of the later, pivotal fighting scene, with Jonathan Cope's Romeo standing woodenly, apparently uninterested in the fact that Mercutio is mortally wounded, and Christopher Saunders's Tybalt possibly the most stolid I have ever seen.

This was not an evening of vivid individual performances, despite the glittering core of Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Cope. Left alone, Cope reverts to his frustrating emotional inarticulacy; but, faced with Guillem, he lets loose to become a dream Romeo handsome with his long neck

and black curls, ecstatically abandoned in his attitude reversed turns, a strong and involved partner in the various pas de deux.

The technical perfection of Guillem's dancing aside, Juliet is not one of her most affecting roles. Although she is clearly sincere in Juliet's tragedy, you become aware of her physical style of acting, among the Royal Ballet's less stylised approach. She is best at happiness, so that in the balcony scene she really makes you live the heart-leaping excitement of falling in love.

Shi-Ning Liu as Benvolio creates smooth and clear shapes, but needs to turn down the volume of his gesturing, given that less is more, except in a stadium. William Trevitt, not one of ballet's effortless or witty performers, is an impossibly handsome but unexciting Mercutio. Gary Avis causes scarcely a ripple in the admittedly boring role of Paris. Roll on some of the backstage dramas. How about a ballet version of Mary Allen's *Royal Opera House Diary*?

NADINE MEISNER

Bleak opera house

OPERA

SAMUEL BARBER:
VANESSA
LYRIC STUDIO
HAMMERSMITH

HOW IRONIC that an opera about waiting and hoping should take 40 years to arrive in the UK. Typical. Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* enjoyed a triumphant US premiere at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, in 1958. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for him. The libretto has its sillinesses, but the central allegory – compromise or be damned – stands firm and the score, full of aching regret and promise unfulfilled, is largely fine and occasionally special, notable above all for the frisson of Barber's wonderfully ambiguous harmonies and heady orchestrations.

At Hammersmith, times are hard. The Other Theatre Company (under severe financial constraints) can manage only a piano. Which begs the question: can one really bill this as the UK premiere? One can applaud the enterprise, for sure. Companies like this can perform a valuable service in refreshing parts of the repertoire that more prosperous organisations can't or won't reach. The piano (bravely played by Anthony Kraus) is fine if you know, and can bear, the orchestrations in your subconscious. For those who don't, and can't, the complexion of the piece is altered. For better or worse, it becomes a bleaker and more consumptive essay. The director Loveday Ingram has effectively capitalised on that. The Lyric Studio, swathed in black, is made to feel suitably claustrophobic, windows and mirrors of the mind covered. Gaunt double doors convey the scale of Vanessa's estate. A scattering of snow suggests the long winters of discontent, inside as well as out. It's a house of sorrow and hopelessness. The exquisite prelude to the final scene sounds like subversive Chopin.

Subversive Barber, though, I had not bargained for. Anyone who has heard the famous Leontyne Price recording of Vanessa's Act 1 aria might well have been wondering if Meryl Richardson was singing the same music. She looked strikingly svelte and neurotic, and behaved accordingly, but this shallow, glassy, asringent voice was distressingly at odds with Barber's effluent lyricism, curdling even the glorious quintet in the last scene. Louis Mott's "Erika", warmly, compassionately sung, provided some compensation, and Evan Bowers, as Anatol, was a tenor of some substance. So a taster, no more of Barber's *Vanessa*. Ignore the programme synopsis which, despite correction, still gets the relationship between the characters wrong. That's not shoe-string, that's shoddy.

EDWARD SECKERSON

FILM

The riddle of the minx

THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)
DIRECTOR: DON ROOS
STARRING: CHRISTINA RICCI,
MARTIN DONOVAN,
LISA KUDROW
100 MINS

Take Alicia Silverstone from *Clueless*, transplant her to white-trash Louisiana, add some puppy fat, stir in a bitter dose of cynicism, and you have something like 16-year-old Dedee Truitt (Christina Ricci), anti-heroine of Don Roos's bracingly upfront comedy *The Opposite of Sex*.

Destined to become one of the great movie minxes, Dedee gets the picture off to a breezy start at her stepfather's funeral, flicking a cigarette butt into his newly dug grave, wrestling her mom to the ground, then packing up and hitting the road, handgun in tow. "If you think I'm like, plucky and scrappy, and all I need is love, you're in over your head," she says, coolly addressing the audience. "I don't have a heart of gold, and I don't grow one later. OK?" You'd better believe it.

Dedee's insolent asides make us her confidants as she turns up on the doorstep of her gay half-brother, Bill (Martin Donovan), who's "like, the definition of a sofie." You fear him. Having installed herself chez Bill, who's too nice to make a fuss, Dedee sets to work on seducing his hunky but not-too-bright boyfriend, Matt (Ivan Sergei). Her question to him: how does he know he's not into sex with women if he's never tried it? His reply: "I've never tried communism either. Or grits."

But you can't underestimate Dedee's wiles. Once she gets pregnant, things start to get very complicated indeed. Matt and Dedee make off with Bill's money and the ashes of his late lover - as ransom, you understand - at which point Matt's ex-lover, Jason (Johnny Galecki), shows up, threatening to frame Bill for sexual harassment at school. So Bill and his schoolteacher friend, Lucia, hotfoot it to Los Angeles, where the fugitive pair have gone to ground.



Woman beware woman: Lisa Kudrow and Christina Ricci as the poles-apart Lucia and Dedee

If that plot sounds a little crowded, don't be alarmed. Roos is more concerned with exploring character than the mechanics of farce, and he's written a terrifically spiky script to back up his conception. With Dedee's voice at the controls, he ensures that sentimentality won't blunt the film's razor tooth, and he keeps the audience slightly off-balance throughout. Dedee booby-traps her narration with teasing bluffs, candid operus and a sardonic contempt for film tradition: *The Opposite of Sex* could be seen as a coming-of-age movie, save for the fact that that Dedee hates coming-of-age movies, particularly the line: "I never was the same again after that summer." Can you blame her? Besides, one look at her sullen baby-doll features tells you she probably came of age around the time she stopped breast-feeding. The elfin Ricci does amazing work

here: female roles with this much sass and swagger don't come along very often, and she takes it with a heartless gusto.

What's more remarkable is that the film actually has two great comic performances. Dedee, having left Bill to pick up the tab for all the hell-raising she's done, isn't quite so prominent in the film's second half; instead, centre-stage is commandeered by Lucia, virtuous and responsible like Bill, and mis-erable with repression. As played by Lisa Kudrow, she's a bit of a scold, and knows it - we get a sense of real loneliness from her; too, perhaps all those high-minded principles have scared men off. "How does a woman get so bitter?" "Observation," she rejoins.

Continually horrified by other people's misbehaviour (of Dedee: "My God, she's the human tabloid!"), Lucia is too uptight and

schoolmarmish to notice that the local sheriff (Lyle Lovett) has become sweet on her. In her role as Phoebe, the flaky folkie in *Friends*, Kudrow's adorable dippiness has always got on my nerves, yet she's a revelation here.

Without its ever seeming schematic, Lucia and Dedee represent the film's contrary poles: as the latter sees it, sex ends in babies and relationships, whereas she just wants the opposite of that - namely un-trammelled, promiscuous fun. Lucia, on the other hand, regards love and companionship and fulfilment as the highest goals, and scorns those who selfishly pursue their own ends. As she tells one such offender: "This is how we do things on the planet Maturia. We have much to teach you." In the end, of course, the definitions blur as both women find that they can get themselves snagged somewhere in be-

tween love and sex, between pleasing yourself and doing unto others. It's, like, life.

Driven along by a jaunty jazz score, Roos's film sags a little in its final third as lessons are, however so ironically, handed around. But you wouldn't begrudge the feel-good ending. Roos has managed something quite unusual in this film: he's evidently liked his characters, he doesn't just a gut trying to make us like them. They all, to one degree or another, exasperate, and offend, and occasionally appeal - even saintly Bill and his forbearance had me grinding my teeth - yet we don't mind extending them our sympathy, precisely because none of them ever asks for it.

In the end, it feels like an optimistic movie. Who'd have guessed from the title that the opposite of sex was actually something good?

ALSO SHOWING

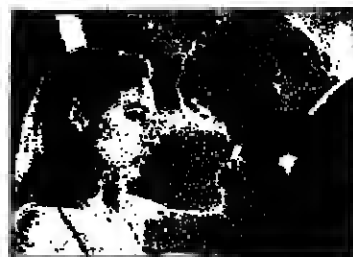
MEET JOE BLACK MARTIN BREST (12)
■ SOUR GRAPES LARRY DAVID (15) ■ DOBERMANN
JAN KOUNEN (18) ■ BUTTONEERS PETR ZELENA (NC)

IN MEET Joe Black a sixtiesomething widower, Bill Parrish (Anthony Hopkins), has been getting intimations - doomy voices, ticker trouble - that all point the same way: his number's up. Sure enough, death pays him a house call, only he's not your usual Grim Reaper in cadaverous make-up and a tatty cowl. No: in Martin Brest's portentous romantic drama, death is played by Brad Pitt with blond highlights, a \$3,000 suit and a vaguely beatific air. Death wants some vacation time on Earth before whisking Parrish away (the source is the 1934 film *Death Takes a Holiday*), and it seems he's no fool: he chooses to stay with Parrish, a media tycoon afloat in baronial splendour in Manhattan, rather than with, say, a rent collector in New Jersey.

The old man then finds death - renamed Joe Black - making the moves on his favourite daughter Susan (Claire Forlan), who seems very taken with her father's mysterious new guest. So the question is posed: is love stronger than death? Hollywood is somewhat preoccupied with this subject. Last year's *City of Angels* and the unspeakable *What Dreams May Come* dabbled with romance beyond the grave, though whether this indicates a new-found spirituality or simply the age-old *timor mortis* is unclear. Either way, it seems to encourage an astonishing windiness in film-makers, and lamentable posturing in actors. Brad Pitt complained in an interview that his role defied research, but his impersonation of death as a stiff-necked, strangle-voiced hick who likes peanut butter is not the stuff to provoke anyone to fear and trembling.

The subplot concerns a dastardly takeover bid that will break Parrish's empire asunder, and at least it is a kind of plot; the rest of the movie snails towards the three-hour mark beneath the weight of a thousand Soulful Glances, Profound Silences and Ridiculous Speeches. (Pitt talking petioles to a dying Jamaican grandmother qualifies as a low point.) That Brest has no sense of pacing is palpable, but a sense of mercy would have been nice. All that keeps boredom at bay is Forlan's almond eyes, Hopkins's tender gravitas and the sadly infrequent presence of Jeffrey Tambor as the tycoon's son-in-law, proving that his Hank from *The Larry Sanders Show* is no fluke: he has an actor's timing as well as a comedian's. Maybe they should have let him play Death instead.

Anyone who has ever stayed up to watch *Seinfeld* will discern the stamp of its co-creator Larry David in *Sour Grapes*, a feature debut that thrives on the same meticulous comedy of triviality. It's a tale of two



cousins who fall out over a windfall. Brain surgeon Evan (Steven Weber) and sports-shoe designer Richie (Craig Bierko) take their girlfriends for a weekend in Atlantic City. Richie borrows two quarters from Evan for a last go on the slot machine - and hits the jackpot, to the tune of \$436,000. Trouble begins when Evan asks for half of the loot. Richie, of course, won't give him a red cent.

What follows is a complicated yet neatly worked farce straight from the *Seinfeld* textbook, whereby an anecdote is steam-rolled flat beneath a ton of misunderstandings, running gags and cute observations. There are some good one-liners, and a tart mini-parody of *Friends* that's just about the funniest thing in the movie. Yet *Sour Grapes* hasn't really enough juice to get it home, and it also reminded me why I don't care for *Seinfeld* any more. It's not the relentless small-mindedness so much as the self-satisfied way the comedy is played out; it's like the bloke in the pub who gets laughs for his first few jokes but doesn't know when to stop.

Doberman is, in at least two senses, a dog. Jan Kounen's cops and robbers movie trades in a hip, cartoonish ultraviolence that would make us go ooh if it hadn't been done to death already. Vincent Cassel plays the leather-clad outlaw Yann, aka The Doberman, who with his deaf moll (Monica Bellucci) and a ragtag gang of psychopaths raids a Paris bank and leaves a trail of bodies. Out to nail him is a cop of such staggering moral turpitude (Tcheky Karyo) that you are immediately inclined to side with the criminal. Kounen directs in the frenzied, kinetic style of an MTV video, though he nods to other influences via a prominent display of two movie posters, *Trainspotting* and *The Usual Suspects*. Well, he can dream.

The six interrelated stories making up the Czech indie *Buttioneers* are united by a curiosity with fate, coincidence and the atom bomb. The writer-director Petr Zelenka has a quirky affection for the way things link up and comment on one other, sparking magical connections. It gets by on a ramshackle combination of eccentricity and rude charm.

All films on release from 15 Jan

"JANE HORROCKS
CHARMS
FOR ENGLAND IN THE
STUNNING
LITTLE VOICE."
THE TIMES



"MICHAEL CAINE
GIVES A PERFORMANCE
BEYOND COMPARE."
ALEXANDER WALKER - EVENING STANDARD

"CAINE GIVES HIS BEST
PERFORMANCE IN YEARS.
BLETHYN IS HILARIOUS.
DO NOT MISS."
HARRPERS & QUEEN



"THE MOST UPLIFTING,
MOVING AND REDEPTIVE
EXPERIENCE YOU'LL
HAVE THIS YEAR."
NME

3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTRESS
BEST ACTOR
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

THE VOICE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "BRASSERIE"

NOW SHOWING NATIONWIDE

RUSHES
MIKE HIGGINS



Robert Carlyle vs. Pierce Brosnan

THE CAST for *The World Is Not Enough*, James Bond's next outing, is beginning to shape up. The ex-breakfast-time siren Denise Van Outen has landed herself a part in the franchise's traditionally spectacular opening sequence, according to *The Mirror*. Van Outen's casting follows the production company's announcement that Pierce Brosnan will be up against none other than Robert Carlyle. He'll play the arch-villain Renard who, thanks to a bullet lodged in his brain, is immune to pain. Fine, but surely the producers have missed a chance to resurrect Carlyle's psychotic turn in *Trainspotting*: Begbie vs Bond - "Come ahead, 007, ye radge wee shite!"

1996 WAS the year that the ship came in for 20th Century Fox and Paramount. According

to *Variety*, *Titanic* earned the studios \$3.2bn in theatrical, video and record releases and broadcast-rights sales last year. The video of James Cameron's epic alone has brought in revenue worth \$1bn, the result of worldwide sales of more than 57 million units.

WITH LESS than a year to go before the start of the new millennium, there are certain things to which humanity will cling as earthquakes rend the earth, the sky falls on our heads and the clock on the video packs up - the eternal truth of Woody Allen's ongoing visits to his analyst being just one. Well, no more. According to a BBC interview to be broadcast this year, Mr Neuritic is so happy with his wife, Soon-Yi, that he's stopped seeing his shrink. Verily, the apocalypse is nigh.

"WILL HAVE YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT WITH YOUR HEART PALPITATING AND YOUR BRAIN IN OVERTIME... ★★★★★"



"...OUTSTANDING... SO STRONG IT HURTS."



"... SUPERB... SMART, TAUT..."



DENZEL WASHINGTON · ANNETTE BENING
THE SIEGE
AND BRUCE WILLIS

NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Cinema to dishonour France

Serious cinema, or canny commercialism? Liese Spencer examines the current French vogue for in-your-face film violence

When, in 1995, Mathieu Kassovitz's incendiary debut *La Haine* opened in France, its hard-hitting tale of poverty, racism and police brutality sparked rioting in the *banlieue* among viewers who identified all too closely with the film's multiracial, disenfranchised anti-heroes. Now Gaspar Noé and Jan Kounen seek to provoke the same powerful reactions with their uncompromising first features *Seul Contre Tous* (I Stand Alone) and *Dobermann*.

But are these violent movies part of a wider attempt to reinstate social criticism into French cinema, or merely Gallie exploitation flicks, smash-and-grab calling-cards from film-makers with an eye on the international market?

Both films, though very different in style, come under the broad umbrella of *Jeune Cinéma Français*, a movement that Ginette Vincendeau, a lecturer in French cinema at Warwick University, describes as "an amalgam of artistic vision and issues which are about more than middle-class people having affairs in beautiful apartments".

Along with other recent releases such as *Clubbed to Death*, *The Dream Life of Angels* and *La Vie de Jésus*, these post-*La Haine* products eschew the empty cool of stylists such as Luc Besson (*Nikita*). Jean-Jacques Beineix (*Betty Blue*) and Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro (*Delicatessen*), offering instead snapshots from a France riddled with unemployment and racism.

Still, while this new breed of French film broadens the country's celluloid exports beyond the traditional heritage swashbucklers and exquisite psychodramas, Vincendeau cautions against making any explicitly political claims for such movies. Indeed, the last thing these young film-makers want is to be described as polemical.

"In France, critics use 'sociological' to describe TV movies, so anyone with artistic, auteur ambitions is careful to avoid the label," says Vincendeau.

It's an argument supported by Noé's press statement for *Seul Contre Tous*, in which one of the reasons he cites for making the film is "to depict the France I see every day, a France that looks more like the country described in Hugo Zola, Henri Charrière or in any other documentary about Vichy, than the vision of France depicted in the films that invade my TV screen, made by more civilised film-makers".

Edited to the sound of off-screen gunshots, interspersed with inter-titles and even featuring a sensational 30-second countdown in which viewers are given a chance to leave



Not pleased to see you: top, 'Dobermann'; bottom left, 'La Haine'; bottom right, 'Seul Contre Tous'

the cinema before its climax, *Seul Contre Tous* works hard to manipulate a reaction.

"Ooe critic said that just hearing the music made him want to call Amnesty International," recalls Noé with satisfaction, adding that he made the film to "dishonour France" and would have liked to have had it banned, since it would have shown that he "had made something shocking".

The liberal agenda behind Noé's deadpan

irony is betrayed, however, by the skill with which he turns his monstrous aggressor into a pathetic victim at the film's finish. Stripping away all the physical and emotional comfort of what he calls "soft bourgeois French cinema" Noé reduces humanity to sex, shelter and animal survival, then shows how in such conditions - tolerance and morality can be regarded as life's little luxuries.

If *Seul Contre Tous* is not overtly politi-

cal, its in-your-face aesthetic certainly bangs home a distinctly moral message. Not so *Dobermann*. "Your first film shows the juvenile side of you: you just want to shake everyone up," says Jan Kounen of his debut feature. *Dobermann* is an ultra-violent, ultra-stylised action movie full of cartoon sex and sadism, which pits Vincent Cassel's eponymous outlaw and his feral gang against Tcheky Karyo's flamboyantly corrupt cop.

Like Noé, Kounen uses guerrilla tactics to aggressively nail the attention of his audience. And, like Noé, Kounen denies any sociological or satirical intent - the difference being that, after watching *Dobermann*, you believe him. Kounen's defiantly shallow romp revels in its own lack of substance, seemingly content to pastiche the action genre in a series of endless explosions and politically incorrect exchanges between two-dimensional stereotypes.

Even its star, Vincent Cassel, will admit this: "There was not much dialogue. It was like playing Batman. Playing Vinz in *La Haine* was different: he was a real anti-hero. I think *Dobermann* is a fantasy Vinz might have had of himself, someone Vinz would have loved to be."

Interestingly, while *Seul Contre Tous* won only praise from both left- and right-wing commentators in France, *Dobermann*'s provocations unleashed a torrent of critical venom.

"The press were saying that it was a Nazi movie," remembers Noé. "I think what really offended them was that although the film was made in France, it looks like a Japanese Manga movie. Critics saw that as some kind of cultural betrayal."

Pushed to a comic extreme, *Dobermann*'s crass genericism marks it out from the auteur tendencies of much *Jeune Cinéma Français*. But traces of its magpie commercialism are in many of the films - not least in *La Haine*'s homage to *Taxi Driver*.

"The reason *La Haine* was such a success was that it managed to channel French social issues into the format of an international crime thriller," says Vincendeau. "Kassovitz borrowed from John Woo, Scorsese and Spike Lee to produce a hybrid of the political movie and the more fashionable crime noir."

Cassel is confident that such a trick can be repeated. "There is this thing going on in Paris, a lot of young actors and young film-makers who are making friends with each other - Cassel's directorial debut, *Crime Boulevard*, is produced by the guy who produced *La Haine* - and feeling very confident. Gaspar Noé, Jan Kounen, Mathieu Kassovitz - suddenly, we're here, and they [the French film industry] cannot do without us. But the war is not over yet; there's a lot to do. Probably the war is to have a movie released around the world, not to be completely crushed by the US movie industry."

Indeed, whether these young guns win or lose the war, whether they're exploiting or exposing, one thing's for sure: violence always sells.

Anthony Quinn reviews 'Dobermann' on page 11

A SHORT HISTORY OF ULTRA VIOLENCE

1990s: Bertrand Tavernier's *L.627* is a lone slice of *vérité* in an ocean of designer style. It investigates issues of racism in the police force and society in general.

1991: Gaspar Noé releases his short *Corne*, in which a butcher, mistakenly believing his daughter has been raped, exacts a terrible revenge. He drafts a screenplay for *Seul Contre Tous* and shows it to potential backers, who tell him to "go away and come back with a normal movie starring normal actors".

1993: Jan Kounen releases his short *Vibromat*, a comedy displaying the one-time cartoonist's obsession with sex and violence - a psychopath runs amok with a phallic fertility symbol strapped to a chainsaw.

April 1995: After Kassovitz's comments that "*La Haine* is an anti-police film", security police turn their backs on the film's cast and crew at a Cannes preview screening.

June 1995: Following huge success, 260 copies of *La Haine* are made instead of the usual 50, but after riots in the suburbs the film is accused of inciting violence.

Edinburgh Festival 1998: Gaspar Noé speaking about *Seul Contre Tous*: "A lot of people ask me if this is a racist movie and I say, yes, it's an anti-French movie."

Strong, conniving women: the final frontier

Director Don Roos scripted *Hart to Hart* and *Dynasty 2*. No surprise then that *The Opposite of Sex* is about a bitch from hell. By Geoffrey Macnab

DON ROOS began his career in Hollywood writing glossy, prime-time soap operas. He ticks off the credits. First was *Hart to Hart*. Then followed *Paper Dolls* (trials and travails of teenage fashion models), *Dynasty 2* (trials and travails of the Colby family) and *Nightingales* (trials and travails of student nurses). This last effort, he says proudly, was voted worst television show of the Eighties. "We were hounded off the air by the Nurses' Association of America. They really objected to our depiction of student nurses as ready and willing to jump into the sack with any young doctor who came by."

Watching *The Opposite of Sex*, Roos's directorial debut, it isn't hard

to spot the soap opera influence. With her red lipstick and white bikini, the film's teenage narrator Dedee Truitt (beautifully played by Christina Ricci) looks like a Long Island Lolita. She also behaves every bit as monstrously as Joan Collins's Alexis. She lies, steals and sleeps around, gleefully spreading malicious rumours wherever she goes. "I like strong, conniving women with wicked tongues," Roos explains when asked about the origins of the character. "They're a staple of soap opera. There's a gossipy feel to this movie - it's not a film about ideas. What interests me is two people in a room having a fight."

Dedee fuels *The Opposite of Sex*

with "a sense of energy, drive and sexual recklessness", but she's not the first "bad girl" Roos has created. Back in 1992, he scripted *Single White Female*, which famously featured the flatmate-from-hell Jennifer Jason Leigh tossing a Labrador puppy out of a skyscraper window. "They're both violent, dark characters," he acknowledges, "but Leigh is full of self-pity. The big difference here is that Dedee never whines or tries to make us like her." In other words, we root for her, whatever she does. To show her in an even more gaudy light, Roos cast Lyle Lovett as the small-town sheriff bumbling along in her wake. "He always reminded me of a face on Mount



Don Roos Andrew Buurman

Rushmore," he says of the lugubrious country singer turned actor. "He has a chiselled, granite quality - he looks really American and solid."

Roos, now 43, grew up in the late

Fifties in what he refers to as "a very suburban, middle-class, rigid society." He was eight years old when Kennedy was assassinated, an event that shook his family to the core. "Kennedy was a huge, important, mythic figure for us," he remembers. "His death was the first time I had seen adults shaken and crying."

Roos's first screenplay, *Love Field*, focuses on the events surrounding the killing. In the film, Michelle Pfeiffer plays Lurene, a Dallas housewife who embarks on an epic trek across country to Kennedy's funeral in Washington. A naive, idealistic busybody with complete faith in the myth of JFK's Camelot, Lurene is the polar opposite of Dedee. Neverthe-

less, he treats her with sympathy. His own mother was equally obsessed with Kennedy. As you'd expect from the future soap opera writer, he, too, bought into the glamour, show business and gossip surrounding JFK and Jackie. "We didn't go to the funeral but we sure as hell went to see the grave more than once."

There are some unlikely parallels between *Love Field* and *The Opposite of Sex*. Both feature strong female characters. Both are road movies, as indeed are *Boys on the Side*, the film about three women on their way across America which Roos wrote in 1995, and *Diabolique*, the (very soapy, OTT) remake of the George Clouzot classic which he

scripted in 1996. "That is something peculiarly American," he says. "If you have problems in a certain setting, you just get in a car and see what happens."

Even now Roos admits to a certain embarrassment about *The Opposite of Sex*. It is far franker than anything he has written before, he half-wishes he hadn't made the film, and he is still worried that his mother didn't like it. "She called me up and said, 'Don, I saw your movie and you're a genius. The scenery was beautiful.' He pauses before confiding, "But there isn't any scenery in the movie... three trees at most!"

See reviews, page 11

the class trip

a film by claude miller

"A film that stamps all over Hollywood portrayals of childhood innocence. Very dark, very good" *ESQUIRE*

"Miller walks a knife edge of dreadful uncertainty with absolute assurance" *EVENING STANDARD*

"tightly crafted psychological thriller" *THE GUARDIAN*



FROM 22 JANUARY AT
ABC SHAFTESBURY AVE. 0870 9020402
Cine Luxe 011 228 8882
Edinburgh 011 228 8882
gft

DOUBLE BILL

PETR ZELENA, DIRECTOR OF 'BUTTONERS', ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING



GUMMO DIR. HARMONY KORINE (1997)

BUFFALO 66 VINCENT GALLO (1997)

THESE FILMS represent the very healthy stream of authority/director movies. Both directors also appear in the films. They are very experimental, yet not so way-out that they are unwatchable. When directors have been writers or actors, it seems to me that they are experienced enough to tell what is important and what is not. Which is a vital quality when you want to make good films on a small budget.

Gummo was a real revelation. It's so authentic - you can't mistake this film for any

other. For instance, the music is very specific, thrash-metal. The acting is also superb. There's a combination of actors and non-actors and you are unable to tell the difference. You can usually use amateurs for a small part, although in *Gummo* the character was played - brilliantly - by a non-actor. *Gummo* is a different take on a familiar genre. It is about a very depressive neighbourhood, where young boys are coming of age. The boys kill alley-cats for money, which is rather like having a job somewhere between killing people and an ordinary occupation. Like *Buffalo 66* it's a grey area between a gangster film

and a film about a typical middle-class life. *Buffalo 66* could be a violent jail-house film, except that the guy who gets out of jail is gentle. He is too shy to kiss the girl.

Both these films are very funny. Humour is very important to me, otherwise it's like a Bergman film and can risk being a bit pretentious. A lot of the humour comes from Gallo and Korine because they don't take themselves too seriously. You can tell a lot about the director from the script - much more than from directing techniques. And, because of this, writers are more interesting to me.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

ROBERT HANKS

The most striking thing about 'Mersey Blues' was the money involved

PAGE 18

"Thrilling... the onslaught of sound and image achieves genuine warp speed"

★★★★★

"Truly astonishing... truly unique."

"beguiling" "fascinating"

PI

PI looks and sounds like nothing else around

Now Showing

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVE. 0870 9020402

Cine Luxe 011 228 8882

Edinburgh 011 228 8882

gft

Courts should recognise that rape victims are not there to be tried. By Grania Langdon-Down

Asking for fairness

I expected the prosecutor to be on my side, but he didn't even introduce himself to me before the case," recalls Jessica, bitterly disillusioned by the criminal justice system. After she was raped by her ex-husband, her fear that he might assault her again gave her the courage to see her complaint through to trial - only then to see him acquitted.

Jessica, 36, who has two small children, has nothing but praise for the way the police dealt with the investigation and the help offered by her local rape crisis centre - all of which made the court process even more of a let-down.

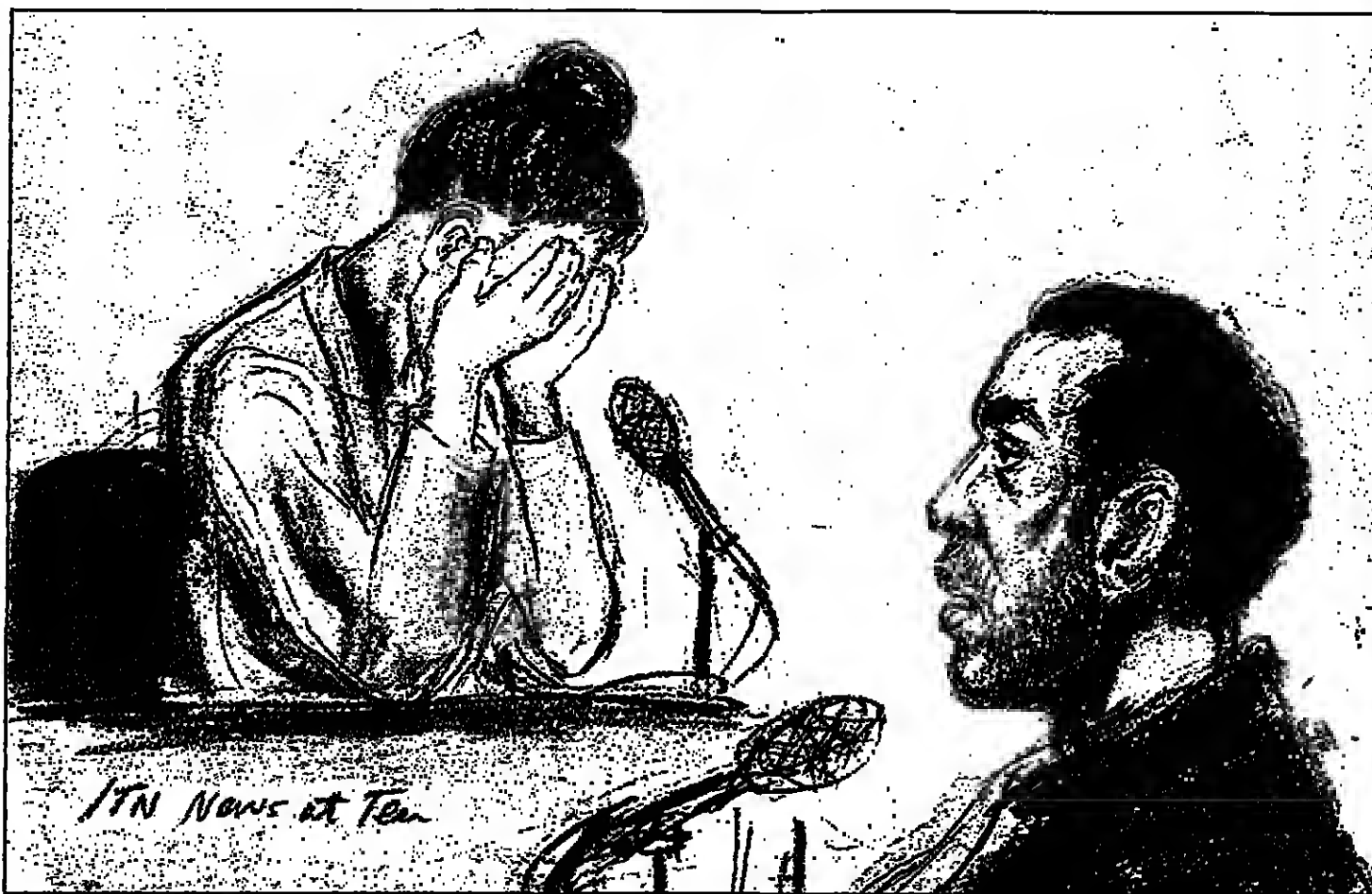
"I was shocked and dismayed that when the defence started telling lies about me, and his friends were called to give character evidence for him and against me, suggesting that I was a slag, the prosecutor didn't leap to his feet and challenge what was being said. "It went on in this vein right up to the closing speeches. The defence lawyer, who was very clever, suggested that I had asked for it, suggested that I liked a bit of rough. The prosecutor didn't disabuse the jury of this even during his closing speech.

"What was really surprising was that though he was on trial, I was the one who was being condemned. I asked myself after the acquittal whether, if I had had someone who knew the story, who had talked it through with me beforehand and who knew what the defence barrister's tactics were likely to be, there would have been a verdict of guilty."

The role of the prosecution is one of the factors being considered in a Home Office study into why the conviction rate for rape has dropped dramatically - from 24 per cent in 1985 to 10 per cent in 1996 - despite a threefold increase in the number of rapes recorded by the police over the same period.

David Magson, assistant chief crown prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in Yorkshire, has been liaising with the Research Centre on Violence, Abuse and Gender Relations at Leeds Metropolitan University to set up a pilot course to train prosecutors in such cases. He says that the drop in the conviction rate has to be seen in the context of the number of cases now coming to trial which would not even have been investigated 20 years ago.

"You cannot necessarily take the fact that there are now more ac-



The rape victim in the trial of Ralston Edwards broke down as he cross-examined her in court

quittals as being a failure of the whole system. But I think you can say that there is a greater number of acquittals in rape cases than in other sorts of cases and, yes, we need to look at that," he concedes.

He adds that rape and sexual assault cases are supervised by CPS lawyers with at least 10 years' experience, and cases are presented in court by independent counsel.

"Part of the course will be aimed at increasing awareness of the mainly male counsel so that they do not make the same assumptions that you sometimes hear judges making," explains Magson.

Another aim of the course is to ensure that prosecutors robustly challenge attempts by the defence to cross-examine complainants on their past sexual history. Magson says: "That is quite clearly a duty of the prosecuting counsel. One of the purposes of this exercise is to educate prosecutors so that they are fully aware of all the relevant legislation and decided case law that

go towards protecting the victim." That will include proposals under the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill that evidence of or questioning about a complainant's sexual behaviour will not be admissible as evidence of whether he or she consented to the offence, unless a judge decides that it relates to a specific instance of fact within 24 hours of the alleged assault, and that its main purpose is not to impugn the witness's character.

The court process has been made even more harrowing for some rape victims who have had to face being cross-examined in court by their alleged attacker. Ralston Edwards was jailed for life after he cross-examined his victim for six days, a case which has led to a change in the law to prevent alleged rapists questioning victims.

Concern over the effectiveness of some rape prosecutions prompted the research centre to set up its pilot course offering prosecutors expert training in dealing with the special

circumstances that surround rape and sexual assault cases.

The course, which is due to start this spring in Leeds, involves three two-hour seminars covering latest research, changes in legislation, trial preparation, dealing with witnesses, cross-examination techniques and the Appeal Court process. Julie Bindel, assistant director of the research centre, says that the course, which is being designed with the close co-operation of the CPS in Yorkshire, will be evaluated to show whether it results in more convictions. Depending on the results, there are hopes that it may eventually be funded nationally by the Home Office.

"We are not suggesting that prosecutors do not know how to do their job. What we want to do is give them the latest thinking on forensic evidence, courtroom techniques and current research so that they can prosecute these cases more effectively."

"Prosecutors are the people who

have to educate juries about rape myths - that there are somehow 'deserving' and 'undeserving' victims, that marital or acquaintance rape is not as damaging as rape by a stranger - and that means being alive to the influence of their own prejudices," says Bindel.

Speakers on the course include Fiona Mason, forensic psychiatrist at Broadmoor, Jennifer Temkin, professor of law at Sussex University, Helen Grindrod QC, an experienced prosecutor, and barrister Vera Baird, author of *Rape in Court*, a critique of rape trials, published last year.

Vera Baird says that the Bill will also allow evidence regarding sexual behaviour to be admitted to rebut evidence called by the prosecution about the complainant, so it is essential that prosecutors are trained to avoid that happening. She says: "It is no more to the Crown's advantage to show that the witness is a model of virtue than it is to the defence to show that she is a tart. They are two sides of the same error."

Human rights in the balance

HUMAN RIGHTS come in many shapes and sizes. Resolving the apparent conflict between General Pinochet's claim to sovereign immunity and the rights of his alleged victims to justice is not difficult from a human rights perspective. The case against Pinochet, as set out in the Spanish request for his extradition, is that after the military coup in 1973 the Dina or secret police, who were answerable to Pinochet, engaged in torture and hostage-taking.

Confronted with allegations of such inhumanity, few would dissent from the ill-fated House of Lords decision that such acts cannot be regarded as a function of a head of state such as to attract immunity from criminal proceedings.

But finding the right balance between human rights and democracy is more difficult.

As the House of Lords was hearing the Pinochet case, the Human Rights Act 1998 slipped on to the statute book. It gives effect in our law to the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Under the Act, it will be unlawful for any public authorities - including central and local government, the police and even courts - to violate convention rights. The issue of human rights will affect all contact between the individual and the state.

The ingenious feature of the Act is the way it attempts to balance the democratic right of the majority to exercise political power with the democratic need of individuals and minorities to have their human rights secured.

The Act aims to give the courts as much leeway as possible to protect rights, short of power to ignore Acts of Parliament. All legislation is to be interpreted as far as possible in a way that is compatible with convention rights. If that is not possible, the higher courts will adjudicate; then it will be for Parliament to decide whether there should be legislation.

The declaration of incompatibility is therefore a crafty device intended to sidestep the controversial issue of parliamentary sovereignty. Whether it succeeds will

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



KEIR STARMER

depend mostly on the attitude of the judges to their new role.

The Government hopes that the effect of the new Act will be to create a human rights culture in the UK. To achieve this, the start date for the Act has been delayed until 2000 so that the Judicial Studies Board can finish training judges, magistrates and tribunal members in human rights law. A close scrutiny of some of the decisions in our courts over the past 25 years suggests that the 65m cost will be well worth it.

But a human rights culture cannot be imposed from the top. The Act is unlikely to succeed without a public awareness campaign. The Pinochet case and those following - including the rehearing later this month - will keep the issue of human rights in the public eye for only a limited period.

A good example of an effective awareness campaign comes from South Africa, where the human rights provisions of the new constitution were drafted only after full consultation with the public. When it became law millions of copies were printed (many in cartoon form, for those with reading difficulties). No such promotion is envisaged for the UK's Human Rights Act.

The claim by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, that the Act will create a "new and better relationship between the Government and the people" is unlikely to be realised if implementation is left to the judges and lawyers.

Keir Starmer is a barrister at Doughty Street chambers specialising in human rights

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

MARKS & SPENCER

Age: 114.

History: Russian refugee Michael Marks founded the company in 1884, in Kirkgate, a Leeds street market. Ten years later, he teamed up with Tom Spencer, a cashier from a wholesale company, and established the Marks and Spencer Penny Bazaar. In the 1920s, the growing business adopted a then-revolutionary policy of buying direct from manufacturers, and in 1926 Marks and Spencer became a public company, registering the trademark "St Michael". Two years later, in 1930, it opened its flagship store at Marble Arch, and during that decade began to sell food and set up a staff welfare department. When the war came, M&S was involved in running the clothing Utility Scheme. In the mid-1970s, it opened its first continental stores, and in 1988, it bought the American clothing company Brooks Brothers and Kings Super Markets, a US food chain. Mid-1990s, it launched its financial services.

Address: Headquarters are at Michael House, Baker Street, London W1.

Ambience: Renowned as a friendly environment with a high emphasis on team-work.

Vital statistics: There are now 470 stores employing 71,300 people, with a turnover of around £2bn per annum. Around a quarter of the UK adult population visits the stores each week. The company has quite an investment programme, too: £10m this year on community-related projects, plus a three-year £2.2bn scheme. There are more than 3,000 food lines on display, and company's Classics brand is the UK's fourth largest in cosmetics; it also has 33 per cent of the UK's sandwich market.

Lifestyle: Those working in stores will be expected to work weekends and late nights. Trainees have to be "flexible".

Easy to get into? Leadership, adaptability, personal flair and individuality are essential qualities, says a spokesperson. "We're not looking for clones," she explains. "By taking on new people, we keep bringing new ideas into the business." Last year, 260 graduates were recruited in the stores, and a further 70 in Head Office.

Glittering alumni: Keith Oates, the UK's joint managing director, is also a non-executive director of BT, and was formerly a member of the Sports Council of Great Britain.

Pay: Graduates start on £18,000, and there's a London weighting of £2,760. The company is particularly proud of its "exceptional" benefits package, which after two years with the company equates to an extra 30 per cent of the salary, and includes perks such as loans (for a car, a season ticket, business clothes, home improvements, education or buying a house), financial planning advice and temporary accommodation. For those changing career, salaries are from £19,500.

Training: M&S is recognised as one of the best trainers around, with emphasis on building technical, managerial and personal skills.

Facilities: An abundance of staff canteens offering subsidised meals.

Who's the boss? Chairman is Sir Richard Greenbury, also a patron of the Samaritans, who became chairman of the Israel-Britain Business Council in 1995.

RACHELLE TRACKRAY

Make the workplace work for you

It's your life, and your career takes up a big part of it. So why waste time following the wrong track? By Meg Carter

ARE YOU the kind of person who always means to sort out your working self, but never quite gets round to it? Maybe it's a better salary you're after - or more responsibility, a change of career, or simply a better balance between work and play.

"All of us have got to take charge of our careers and take responsibility for what we want from an organisation - more than ever before," says Angela Edward, policy adviser at the Institute of Personnel and Development. Working life throughout the Nineties, she believes, has been epitomised by a single concept: "empowerment". Of course, many employers have used this term as a useful way of packaging downsizing and job insecurity. But there are ways of making the current employment climate work in your favour, she says.

The first step is to identify your goal - and the key here is objective self-analysis and honesty. "If you feel like you need a fresh start, ask yourself why. Only by being completely straight with yourself can you begin to work what you want to change, and how to bring it about."

Every Nineties employee can gain from practising this, agrees Alan Margolis, managing consultant at Hampstead Training Consultants. "Otherwise you end up working to someone else's agenda - to help someone else achieve their goals."

In fact, claims motivational expert Jurgen Wolff, although it's an obvious starting point, it's one where many of us go wrong and consequently give up. "One of the biggest problems many of us face is being stuck with old objectives. We foster an outdated image of ourselves. Ask yourself, is this something I still really want to do? And if it's not, don't be afraid to admit it, and move on."

The next step is to develop a campaign of action. "Identify what

talents or skills you have and what you will need to get to achieve your goal," Ms Edward says. "Will you get these opportunities where you are currently working, or should you move elsewhere?"

Dividing your overall goal into a series of smaller, easier, and quicker-to-attain steps can help. "The step-by-step approach makes your goal more attainable," Mr Wolff advises.

Backing up your strategy by making practical changes on a daily basis is essential. If you want to be more assertive, for example, develop a more confident outward appearance. This will also help you prepare to ask for that pay rise you want. It's all part of developing a positive mental attitude, Mr Margolis says.

"Visualising success is a useful trick. If you imagine doing what you really want to do - how you would feel, what you might say - you are more focused on it," he explains. "Imagine yourself running like Linford Christie; you might not end up running as fast as him, but chances are you'll end up running faster than you did before."

Negative thinking is a common stumbling block. To help overcome this, Mr Margolis advises modifying

your speech. "You can use language to fuel your engine," he explains. "Use 'I' instead of 'one', 'it' or 'people' to be seen as more decisive and direct. Use 'how', not 'why'. Don't say you 'can't' do something, say 'I can if...'. Use the situation to negotiate."

Failure typically comes as a result of being typecast by other people. "For all the talk of embracing change, people don't much like having it thrust upon them," comments Mr Wolff. "It can take time for people to accept you in a new role. For some, then, it's best not to trumpet it, but to get on with what you want to achieve: quietly."

Alternatively, he adds, people can give up on their goals prematurely as a result of failing to understand the delicate balance of performance with expectation. "When you start on something new, such as learning a new language, it's exciting and you learn a lot. But after a while, performance begins to plateau and your expectations race ahead. This is the point when many people give up - when success is just around the corner. Understanding this relationship is the key to overcoming the desire to give up," he says.

Making the time needed to realise



Identify your career goal - and go for it

George Hunter

your goals is an aspect of change that many people don't plan, adds Mr Wolff. "Many people fail to follow through their resolutions by overlooking the fact that learning something new will eat into your day."

Regularly monitoring your progress is fundamental - and also

makes a good excuse to reward yourself on a regular basis, which will spur you on. Some people work on achieving their goals alongside someone else - perhaps in the workplace - swapping plans, monitoring and encouraging each other along the way.

In addition, talk to people who have already done or are in the process of doing what you want to do. "If you want promotion or to change your career, are there any professional bodies or associations which might be able to help?" says Mr Wolff. "Amidst all the talk about the importance of skills, it's easy to forget success often also comes down to who you know."

Ultimately, achieving your goals will come down to a combination of courage and perseverance. Forget all those reasons you used to put it off last year, Ms Edward says.

"January is a brilliant time for a fresh approach. So do it now."

RESOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE

■ Identify your goals and prioritise them. Make a list - putting it down on paper can help the thought process.
■ Ask yourself: "How realistic are my goals?" "What do I need to do to achieve them?" "Am I willing to put in the time and effort?" Self-improvement comes at a price - are you prepared to pay it?

■ When you have boned your list, draw up a plan of action. Break the process down into smaller, more achievable steps.
■ Work on your goals on a daily basis, and monitor progress. Once you feel more confident about your decision, discuss your advancement with a colleague, friend or expert in the field - the two of you can

offer each other constructive criticism, gentle encouragement and regular updates.
■ It is vital to keep a flexible approach, since there are often unforeseen opportunities and pitfalls. Adaptable people tend to achieve what they want far more quickly than those who doggedly follow a plan of action they set down 18 months ago.

NEW FILMS

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Director: Mark Herman
Starring: Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine
Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) cannibalises her dead dad's record collection, perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations, then falls in with Michael Caine's impresario; a low-rent, Bermuda-shirted hustler with one rheumy eye on the big time. Brenda Blethyn trundles around in a hip-hugging mini-skirt as LV's mum, Ewan McGregor pops up as a simple pigeon-breeder, and seedy seaside cartoonery runs as a garish visual backdrop. Where Mark Herman's last film, *Brassed Off*, was a whole and solid effort, *Little Voice* proves altogether more hitzy and piecemeal. For while the director does a decent spot of carpentry in remoulding Jim Cartwright's stage-play for the screen, the result still trades in gestures and caricature and is further hindered by tentative pacing. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from the rejuvenated Caine push it through to the final curtain. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

PI (15)

Director: Darren Aronofsky
Starring: Sean Gullette, Mark Margolis
Aronofsky's pungent debut idles in a kind of ante-room between maths lesson and art class, as Sean Gullette's New York number-cruncher ponders a numerical code behind the holy Hebrew texts, and designer flourishes overrun the screen. The rhythm runs on a staccato beat - the tone is self-consciously lugubrious. What sustains *PI* is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra, and the louché, too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. **West End:** Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Green, Screen on the Hill

PSYCHO (15)

Director: Gus Van Sant
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche
Homage or sacrilege? Photocopy or experiment? Whichever camp you fall into, Gus Van Sant's

shot-by-shot *Psycho* reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Here, the original's high-contrast black-and-white is dumped in favour of Edward Hopperish colour. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic; a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has a definite curiosity value without ever quite adding up to much more besides. File this one under "White Elephants". **West End:** Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE SIEGE (15)

Director: Edward Zwick
Starring: Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis
A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, *The Siege* winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The nominal hook (Muslim terrorist bombing in New York) gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's gung-ho army renegade. Zwick desperately attempts to touch all the bases, but even the speedy, kinetic editing can't gloss over his film's messy marriage of perfunctory liberalism and noisy chest-beating. **West End:** Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)

Director: Howard Hawks
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall
That immortal "You know how to whistle, don't you?" line aside, *To Have and Have Not* has come to be more highly regarded for its behind-the-scenes history than its narrative content. Conceived as a *Casablanca* cash-in, and irreverently adapted from what Hawks reckoned to be Hemingway's worst novel, this wartime drama is credited with getting Bogart (then an unhappily married megastar) together with 19-year-old Bacall. The taut, proficient plot has Bogart's Martinique-based skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. Hawks directs with a pointed, easy grace. **West End:** Curzon Soho

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

ANTZ (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as worker-ant "Z". **West End:** UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (15) (PG)

Semirah Mahdhalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is a luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. **West End:** Metro, Renoir

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of waifs. Comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animalistic fairytale. **West End:** Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a turgid, Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. **West End:** Barbican Screen

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But opportunities for film are largely neglected in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. **West End:** ABC Panton Street, Curzon Minema, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fast-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. This is a big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller, with a top-drawer cast including Jon Voight and Gabriel Byrne. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. **West End:** Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MULAN (U)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

head in Gray's thrilling drama. **West End:** Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The *Parent Trap* catches Disney reheating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer into a spicy tale starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to reunite their parents (Natalie Richardson, Dennis Quaid). **West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is actually not at all bad. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his mistress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. **West End:** Warner Village West End

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his *Technical Dreamcoat*. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

RONIN (15)

Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. **West End:** Odeon Mezzanine

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hit-and-miss affair. **West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SITCOM (18)

In this scattergun satire of middle-class mores, François Ozon takes pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is savage and funny one moment, indulgent the next. **West End:** Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)

A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over. *Insurrection* hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags and wrapped up in more cornball romance than we've used to. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in this latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romance of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. **West End:** ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chap who lights out in a cod-impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Haymarket, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Acid House (18)

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Debut director Paul McGuigan turns this into a bit of a triumph, adopting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales. A cracker, all told.

The Dream Life of Angels (18)

Erick Zouca's remarkable debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchet) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

Mulan (U)

In Disney's animated tale, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from certain death in combat. This movie has it all, and is one of the most visually innovative films that Disney has ever made.

Out of Sight (15)

Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off previous Elmore Leonard adaptations, and boasts in Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney the sweetest cinematic pairing of the year.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic (above).

ANTHONY QUINN AND XAN BROOKS

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen (Cottesloe)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 27 Jan

The Tempest (Barbican Theatre)

David Calder is a magnificently querulous and authoritative Prospero in Adrian Noble's imaginative RSC staging. In rep to 4 Mar

Kafka's Dick (Piccadilly Theatre)

Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this uproarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in this revival by Peter Hall. To 26 Feb

Just Not Fair (Birmingham Rep)

Moving account by Jim Robinson of 18 years' wrongful imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four. Will be performed in rep with the equivalent prison testament *De Profundis*, by Oscar Wilde (right). To 30 Jan

A Month in the Country (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

A conjunction of two great artists and cultures. Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy. To 20 Feb



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon (Royal Academy)

"Life? Or Theatre?" Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's life before Auschwitz - an expressionistic operetta in three colours. To 17 Jan

Neurotic Realism (Saatchi Gallery)

First instalment of Charles Saatchi's new, made-up art movement, which, by a happy coincidence, consists entirely of works in his own collection. To 28 Mar

Chris Ofili (Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)

This 1998 Turner Prize-winner (above) is an upbeat original. His surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, Afros and black icons, and incorporating elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones (Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery)

This centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

Grintling Gibbons (Victoria & Albert Museum)

The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark. To 24 Jan



TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) @ Baker Street
The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-222 0404) @ Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus
Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Eel 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Government 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Sittcom 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-907 0718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.55pm,

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) • *Harrow on the Hill* Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, 9.30pm
Little Voice 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm
The Mask of Zorro 11.55am, 2.25pm, 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm
The Prince of Egypt 11.55am, 2pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm
1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Rush Hour 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm
The Siege 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 4.0pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm, 8.40pm
What Dreams May Come 6.20pm, 8.50pm

HOLLOWAY (08705-050007) • *Holloway Road* Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.10pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 5pm, 7.55pm
The Prince of Egypt 1.05pm, 2.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.35pm
Psycho 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 9pm
Rush Hour 8.35pm
The Siege 12.25pm, 2.10pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

ILFORD (08705-050007) • *Gangs Hill* Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
Little Voice 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Psycho 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm
The Siege 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

KILBURN (0171-328 1000) • *Kilburn* The Age of Innocence 3pm
Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.45pm
(+ Short: Kings of Slam with 8.45pm performance only)

KINGSTON (08705-050007) • *Kingston* Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
Psycho 2.25pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.25pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL (08705-050007) • *Highgate* Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm
The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.40pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM (0181-235 3006) • *Peckham* Rye Enemy of the State 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm
Psycho 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm
Rush Hour 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm
The Siege 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

PURLEY (08705-050007) • *Purley* Enemy of the State 4.55pm, 8pm
The Siege 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 6.10pm, 8.35pm

PUTNEY (08705-050007) • *Putney* Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm
Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND (08705-050007) • *Richmond* Enemy of the State 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
The Siege 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

ROCHFORD (08705-050007) • *Richmond* The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm
Out of Sight 9.20pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 7.50pm, 9.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD (08705-050007) • *Romford* Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm, 9.30pm
Psycho 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ROTHAMPTON (08705-050007) • *Romford* Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 3.30pm, 8.15pm
Little Voice 12.05pm, 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm
The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 7.50pm, 9.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm
What Dreams May Come 8.20pm

SIDCUP (0541-555131) • *Sidcup* Psycho 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm, 8.40pm

STAPLES CORNER (08705-050007) • *Cricklewood* Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm
Little Voice 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.25pm, 4.40pm
Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Rush Hour 7pm, 9.20pm
The Siege 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

STRATFORD (0181-555 3366) • *Stratford* East of Eden of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm
Little Voice 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm
The Prince of Egypt 2pm
Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm

STREATHAM (08705-050007) • *Stratham* Hill Antz 6.40pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm
Psycho 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
What Dreams May Come 8.35pm

STREATHAM (08705-050007) • *Stratham* Hill Antz 6.40pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm
Psycho 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
What Dreams May Come 8.35pm

STREATHAM (08705-050007) • *Stratham* Hill Antz 6.40pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm
Psycho 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
What Dreams May Come 8.35pm

STREATHAM (08705-050007) • *Stratham* Hill Antz 6.40pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm
Psycho 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
What Dreams May Come 8.35pm

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. • Seats at all prices • Returns only. • (1) Sun, (2) Mon, (3) Tue, (4) Wed, (5) Thur, (6) Fri, (7) Sat

ALARMIS & EXCURSIONS Michael Fray's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5/7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50, 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed play about the rivalry between the two composers. Old Vic Theatre, SE1 (0171-928 7616) • BR/• Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

ANNE Rags to riches story of the naively optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Theatre, SW1 (0171-834 1317) • BR/• Victoria, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy, Yasmin Bannerman comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £9.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical biopic about the life of Buddy Holly. Strand Palace, WC2 (0171-830 8800) • Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, Sun (11) 4pm, £7.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poem about the cats of New London. Her Majesty's Theatre, WC2 (0171-405 0072) • Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3/7] 3pm, £12.50-£35, 165 mins.

CHICKADEE Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Main Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) • Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee), 130 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The complete works of William Shakespeare. The Swan Theatre, SW1 (0171-834 1317) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee), 130 mins.

DR DOOLITTLE Philip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-464 0021) • Hammersmith, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

THE GLORY OF LIVING Drama set amongst the trailer parks of southern America from new playwright Rebecca Gilman. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 6 Feb, £10 concs, £25.

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earls Court, WC2 (0171-494 5000) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Little Theatre, W1 (0171-494 5045) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 165 mins.

INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Dillane's wit and wit in the production of J.B. Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Sat 1.15pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairy tales. The Old Vic Theatre, SW1 (0171-494 5070) • Pic. Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, (11) 3pm & 5pm, £5-£18.50.

KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Bennett's comedy about the moribund writer. Piccadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) • Pic. Circ. In rep today 3pm & 8pm, ends 26 Feb, £12-£30.

LORD OF THE FLIES Stage version of William Golding's classic tale of schoolboys living on a deserted island. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) • Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 6 Feb, £5-£16.

THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Julie Savallha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. Wyndham's Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) • BR/• Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5/7] 3pm, £8-£27.50.

THEATRE
WEST END

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5/7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

MISS SAGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Shaftesbury Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £5.75-£35, 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's Theatre, WC2 (0171-836 1443) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4/7] 2.45pm, [7] 3pm, £10-£24.50, 135 mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre, SW1 (0171-494 5060) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4/7] 3pm, £12-£50, 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE • **OLIVER** Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep tonight 7.15pm, ends 20 Feb.

NT2000: The Playboy of the Western World John Galsworthy's play about a young man who reads the role of Pagan Miles in the 19th century's landmark drama. Tonight 6pm.

LYTELTON Cien, Campling, Emmanuel and David Jukes' new play looks at the Carry On actors and recreates Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Babs Windsor on stage. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan, 120 mins.

COTTESLOE Copenhagen New drama from Michael Fray about the discovery of the atom. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 27 Jan, 145 mins.

NT2000: Sofia Barbara Castle discusses John Galsworthy's drama. 15.6m. From the Royal National Theatre. Tonight 7.45pm, ends 29 Jan, £9 concs, £7. Broad Street (0121-236 4455)

THE BARBICAN Measure for Measure. Stephen Dillane stars in this new production of Shakespeare's play. In rep tonight 7.15pm.

THE PIT Bad Weather Robert Holman's examination of the breakdown in family relationships. In rep tonight 7.15pm. Barbican, Charing X. £11-£18.50, Barbican Centre, EC1 (0171-638 8811). BR/• Barbican/Moorgate.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Andrew Garfield. Tonight 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs's contemporary classic. Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portland Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) • Holborn/Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-464 5020) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit rock musical about the music business. Lyric Theatre, W1 (0171-416 6070) • BR/• Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3/7] 3pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

THE STREET OF CROCODILES Bruce Sculth's short stories provide the inspiration for Theatre de Complicie's acclaimed and absurdist drama. Queen's Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040) • Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Binda Long stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight 7.45pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call BLACK EYED PEAS are a LA-based M.C. trio whose funky-beats have gained commercial acclaim on the back of Warren Beatty's *Rhino* soundtrack. They follow in the tradition of groups like Blackstar DMX and Company Flow, paying homage to the old school while adding musical elements of their own. Black Eyed Peas' traditional hip hop is flavoured with Latin soul vibes and R&B. Trained in freestyle dancing and stage-diving, they put on an exciting live show. Empire Theatre, London W1 (0171-771-2000) 15 Feb

Last Call IN SAMUEL BECKETT'S enigmatic exploration of time, Krapp's Last Tape, Edward Petherbridge (right) plays an old man obsessed with the past. Employing few props, this is a disturbing work that has little dialogue apart from that coming from a tape Krapp recorded 50 years ago, speaking about his lost love. Petherbridge has been touring with the play for the past year and a half, and adds to London dates Beckett's wordless, 35-second play *Breath*, plus a question-and-answer session. Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London W1 (0171-836 3334) to 6 Feb

THEATRE
COUNTRYWIDE

BATH THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk. Paul Bradley fronts *Enders* stars alongside *Only Fools and Horses* John Chalfie. Tonight 2pm & 7pm, ends 24 Jan, £6-£16, concs available. Sawclose (01223-332900)

BIRMINGHAM REP A Christmas Carol. Michael Bogdanov directs a new adaptation of Charles Dickens's Victorian tale of greed and redemption. Tonight 7.15pm, ends 16 Jan, £7.25-£19, concs available. Deerpark Theatre, Edgbaston, B15 (0121-353 4455)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the Ivy. Thought-provoking study of life in a village from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 2.30pm, £6.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-324888)

EXHIBITIONS

THURSDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

IN THE Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (1pm), Paul Allen introduces the first of three recitals recorded during last weekend's exhaustive Haydn string quartet festival at the Royal Northern College of Music. Today you can hear the Brodsky Quartet tackling Op 54 No 2 in C and Op 76 No 4 in B flat. Comedy Showcase (9.30pm R2), a series of comedy pilots,

begins with Relax! Pauline Quirke (right), of Birds of a Feather, stars as the new owner of an upmarket health farm who turns up incognito and exposes the ingrained snobbery of her staff. Written by Terry Ryan, who penned The Brittas Empire, and starring Jeffrey Holland, perhaps it should have been called *Relax!*



DOMINIC CAVENTISH

RADIO 1
(97.5-99.5MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Chris Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allen. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Barry Took's Comedy Classics: the Navy Lark. 9.30 Comedy Showcase: Relax. See *Pick of the Day*. 10.00 Girls and Guitars. 10.30 Richard Ainsworth. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. See *Pick of the Day*. 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. 4.00 Ensemble. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the Colston Hall, Bristol, introduced by Chris Willis. Alexei Lubimov (piano), Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment/Herbert Blomstedt. Mendelssohn: Overture 'The Hebrides' (Fingals Cave). Schubert: Symphony No 2 in B flat. 8.35 Book of the Month. An extended review of one of the month's most interesting new publications. In 'The Dragon in the Land of Snows', Tibetan historian Tsering Shakyia draws on a mass of oral and archival sources to uncover the story of Tibet's struggle to maintain independence. In the first such history from a Tibetan writer, he looks at this subsequent story of Chinese attempts at unification and at the background to current and future developments in the area. 8.35 Concert, part 2. Brahms: Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor.

9.35 Postscript. Paul Neuberger continues his exploration of the Communist project which sought to use the arts to remould people's minds. 4: 'The Red Mask'. In the West, the biggest Communist movement of the 1930s and 40s was in France. The commitment of some prominent writers and artists to the cause involved radical shifts in creative agendas that were tenaciously resisted by others. Then, from 1956 onwards, revelations about the Stalinist regime rocked writers' and artists' faith in Communism throughout the world. 10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping and Chris de Souza introduce the second of two programmes of previously unheard treasures from Music Restored's 1998 recordings. This week's selection includes Dowland part songs from Red Byrd, a Beethoven sonata performed by the Russian ensemble Musica Petropolitana, a Handel suite played by harpsichordist Laurence Cummings, and a cantata by Matthias Weckmann played by the Purcell Quartet and friends. 10.45 Night Waves. Paul Allen explores the increasingly complex ways we think about the human body in art and science and talks to speakers in this year's Darwin Lectures in Cambridge, which take the body as their theme. 11.40 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Poulenc. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. **RADIO 4**
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS. In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. 9.30 Transatlantic. (R) 9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle. 10.00 NEWS. Women's Hour. 11.00 NEWS. From Our Own Correspondent. 11.30 Old Dog and the Partridge. 12.00 NEWS. You and Yours. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Hidden Treasures. 2.00 NEWS. The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Dogs. 3.00 NEWS. Call You and Yours. 0870 010 0444. 3.30 Tales from the Village. 3.45 This Scattered Isle. 4.00 Word of Mouth. 4.30 The Material World. 5.00 PM. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The Warriors. 7.00 NEWS. The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock presents the arts programme, including a look at the art of turning birdsong into music, as revealed by the French composer Olivier Messiaen. 7.45 Lady Susan. Drama: 'Lady Susan' by Jane Austen. Adapted by Lavina Murray. With Harriet Walter and Maggie Stead (4/10). 8.00 NEWS. Case History. Professor Roy Porter reconsiders Anthony Eden's performance during the Suez Crisis. Was the British prime minister taking a cocktail of drugs to help him to stay alert and to help him sleep? Eden's widow Lady Avon, historians and doctors provide insight. 8.30 The Week in Westminster. Peter Riddell of The Times takes a look

behind the scenes at Westminster. 9.00 NEWS. Testbeds. Vanessa Collingridge explores the technology that will shape our future. 9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influenced our time. 10.00 NEWS. The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. Juliet Stevenson reads Enid Blyton's novel 'Nana'. 11.00 NEWS. World of Pub. A four-part comedy by Tony Roche. 2: Things are looking bad for Barry and Garry. The pub is empty and they are on the verge of bankruptcy. When Barry says they need a miracle to sort them out, Duddy Phil obliges. With John Thomson, Phil Cornwell and Alistair McGowan. 11.30 Experimental Feature: The Hand of Friendship. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. **RADIO 4 LW**
(98.1kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. **RADIO 5 LIVE**
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Hardest Game. Continuing the series in which former BBC boxing correspondent Harry Carpenter reflects on the sport from the 1950s to the present day. The Greatest Heavyweight of Them All. Harry Carpenter remembers the phenomenon that was Muhammad Ali. 8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Barnett and the team investigate the issues that affect the sporting world. 9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddy M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene. 9.30 Sportsshop. Tilde Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Brian Hayes. Int 1030 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 12.01 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 3.00 Mark Griffiths. 5.00 - 6.00 Nick Bailey. **VIRGIN RADIO**
(125, 197, 128.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO**
(98.1kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Performance. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (400-700). **TALK RADIO**
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Ræburn. 3.00 Peter Deely. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whelan. 12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

IN A martial society, respect is all. The best way of engendering this is by beating (like other sportsmen chess players use considerably more colourful verbs amongst themselves) an opponent over the board. As long as the game wasn't disfigured by some ghastly blunder, you, or rather I, feel, once the volcanic emotions of defeat have abated, a grudging or even heartfelt admiration for somebody who has committed this outrage upon my person - and I presume that the same extends to my colleagues.

With the proliferation of strong players, however, it's become impracticable to lock horns with each and every one of them; and in a development in some ways analogous to the change from barter to coinage, rating systems were developed - which, indeed, at a professional level translate fairly directly to levels of remuneration - to provide a numerical measure of these macho relationships.

All of which verbiage is only to introduce the eagerly awaited arrival of the January 1999 Fide rating list. Of course, we in this country have our own rating system (based as I explained a month and a half ago on the Financial Times Index), and it is that which is of importance to the vast majority of British players. But the list was certainly eagerly awaited by my colleagues and myself, and when a copy of the Top 100 was finally sent to Boh Wade - who among his many hats includes one as a Fide technical director - the phone lines and ether went into overdrive.

Within a very short time, Mark Crowther had put it up on his excellent home page - <http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html> -

and shortly thereafter queries started appearing.

At the top, Gary Kasparov is down from 2,815 to 2,812 (for the first time ratings aren't being rounded to the nearest 5) but his only activity in the period was a six-game match against Jan Timman, which wasn't supposed to be rated!

Additionally, Crowther had speedily received an e-mail from Veselin Topalov, who had been rated for 11 games too many; it seems that Tilburg was rated twice - which affects a dozen players at the very top.

With those serious reservations the current list continues: Anand 2,783, Kramnik 2,740, Shirov 2,725, Morozevich 2,723, Ivanchuk 2,714, Leko 2,711, Karpov and Adams 2,710, Svidler 2,703 and Short 2,697. The other top English ratings are Sadler 2,676, Miles 2,669, myself 2,661 and Nunn 2,660.

Just room for an allegedly currently double-value miniature from Tilburg. Lautier lost far too much time in the opening. At the end of 24...Nxd1 x Qf4+ g8 26 Rg3+ Bg4 27 Rxd4+ Kh7 28 Qg5 and mates or if 24...Be6 simply 25 Rd1.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Joel Lautier
Tilburg 1998

Queen's Gambit Slav	
1 d4 d5	13 0-0 exd4
2 Nf3 c6	14 exd4 Nb6
3 c4 e6	15 Qd3 g5
4 Qc2 dxc4	16 Rf1 Qb4
5 Qxd3 Nf6	17 Qd2 Nd4
6 Bg5 Be7	18 Qxh6 Nxb2
7 e3 0-0	19 Bxg6 Bxg6
8 Bb3 h6	20 Ng5 Bxg5
9 Bxf6 Bxf6	21 Qxg6+ Kh8
10 Nc3 Nd7	22 Qh5+ Kg7
11 Rd1 Qe7	23 Qxg5+ K7
12 Bh1 e5	24 Re3! 1-0

POKER DAVID SPANIER

PADDY JOE was mightily miffed. A gambling kind of player who could win a packet, go broke, borrow a few quid and come back from the dead, all in the same night's play, he was on his best behaviour. Watchful and sensible. So when he found Q-Q in his hand at Omaha, and the flop came down Q-7-2 off-suit, he was thrilled.

This is the only flop at Omaha if you start with Q-Q, which does not offer a straight draw to your opponents (as noted by the poker statistician Dr Mahmood Mahmood in *The Science of Poker*). So when the betting came round to him, Paddy checked. He wanted the others to stay in.

On any other sort of flop he would certainly have bet, to force anyone drawing to hit a straight or a flush to pay for the privilege. What could go wrong? On the very next card a king came down. And someone had a pair of kings in the hole. It cost Paddy his whole stack.

Omaha is a game of bad beats. Here is another Irish calamity, which befell the Dublin player Donnacha O'Dea. He was dealt 9h-10c-Jh-Jc (double-suited) and raised. The flop came down 2-7-8 with two of his hearts showing. Now Donn

has a higher pair than the board cards, an open-ended straight draw, and a flush draw in reserve.

Hanif, a strong player, now bet \$600. He was probably shooting a bow at venture, hoping to set up a bluff on the next card. Donn knew him well enough to know his style of play. Next card off was a 4. Hanif now bet £1,600. As it turned out this was the only card in the whole deck which could help him! He had come on a speculative holding of 2-4-4-5. The other 4 would have been a heart, giving Donn a flush, a 6 would have given him a higher straight, and a pair on board would still have left Donn with his jacks as top pair.

When Hanif bet (this was the big game, now reinstated at the Grosvenor Victoria casino in Edgeware Road, London) Donn thought about it and then raised for the rest of his money, another £1,400. He wanted to be sure of getting paid off on the river if he hit his hand. But the last card was irrelevant.

When Hanif showed his trip 4s, Donn stared at the cards for two or three minutes before he took in what had happened. "When a good player makes a bad play, it does sort of shake you," he admitted ruefully.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THE COEN BROTHERS' films are distinguished by a marvellously quirky world-view. Four of their finest are showcased tonight, starting with *The Hudsucker Proxy* (8pm FilmFour), their homage to Capra, in which Tim Robbins is pulled from the mail room to challenge the way Paul Newman is running a giant corporation. It continues with: *Barton Fink* (10pm), in which arty playwright John Turturro experiences writer's block when

he is brought to LA to work for Hollywood producer Michael Lerner; *Miller's Crossing* (12am), a finely written 1930s crime drama which sees Gabriel Byrne (right) using unorthodox methods to save his boss, Albert Finney; and *Blood Simple* (2am), their creepily atmospheric low-budget tribute to film noir which stars Frances McDormand, the actress who went on to win an Oscar in their Fargo.



JAMES RAMPTON

8.15-8.30 The History's Turning Points (407592). 1.30-2.00 Fight Night (552223). **SKY ONE**
7.00 Count Duckula (89153). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (52822). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (52578). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (75337). 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (57172). 11.00 Gullit! (54608). 12.00 Jerry Jones (29153). 1.00 Mad about You (88424). 1.30 Jeopardy! (20548). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (75482). 3.00 Jerry Jones (47583). 4.00 Gullit! (72758). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (55563). 6.00 Married with Children (5181). 6.30 Dream Team (753). 7.00 The Simpsons (5288). 7.30 The Simpsons (5627). 8.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (8908). 8.30 World's Wildest TV (1443). 9.00 Friends (6172). 9.30 E! (7781). 10.30 Veronica's Closet (7343). 11.00 Dream Team (2817). 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (7404). 12.30 Highlander (2818). 1.30 - 2.00 Long Play (562582).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (316397). 7.30 World Wrestling Federation Shotgun Gun (59581). 8.30 Sky Sports Centre (316397). 9.30 Euro News (54977). 9.50 Aerobics - Oz Style (54529). 9.50 You're on Sky Sports (7815). 10.00 Rating: White Water World Championships 1998 (48462). 11.00 European Tour Golf Magazine (52596). 11.30 European Tour Golf (52597). 2.30 Nipponia (55729). 4.00 Pool (75578). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (5558). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (191).

6.30 Football League Review (58755). 7.30 European Tour Golf (10222). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (58443). 10.30 You're on Sky Sports (7815). 10.45 Time World Sport (483259). 11.45 Sky Sports Centre (58288). 12.00 You're on Sky Sports (7815). 12.30 Futbol Mundial (38186). 1.00 Spanish Football (58689). 3.00 Trans World Sport (52757). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (58443). 4.30 Close!

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (52596). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (58443). 7.45 Racing News (525283). 8.30 Unbelievable Sports (582780). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (58443). 9.00 Fish TV Fishing Times (555282). 9.30 Fish TV - Tony Dearth Outdoors (700598). 10.00 Pool (560067). 11.00 Figure Skating (72174). 1.00 Football (47459). 2.30 Sports World (281578). 3.30 Sports Unlimited (586725). 4.00 Unbelievable Sports (49772). 5.00 Football League Review (571443). 6.00 What a Weekend (58557). 6.30 The Rugby Club (585806). 7.30 Top Hockey (52457). 10.00 The Rugby Club (584578). 11.00 Tight Lines (580648). 12.00 Inside the PGA Tour (478307). 12.30 Ford Golf USA (523297). 2.30 The Rugby Club (581234). 3.30 - 7.00 Cricket Australia v England (287223).

Sports Classics Cricket: England v West Indies 1995 (333258). 3.00 The Entertainment (566004). 3.30 Fastest (523008). 4.00 Entertainment (566004). 5.00 Survival of the Fittest (483259). 6.30 Inside the PGA Tour (426533). 7.00 Tight Lines (400428). 8.00 Spanish Football (400773). 10.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (5048207). 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (42848). 8.00 Snowboarding (2997). 9.00 Station (4753). 10.30 Lupe (58449). 11.00 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (42848). 12.00 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (42848). 1.00 Car on Ice (22882). 1.30 African Cops (5453). 3.30 Station (2998). 5.00 Snowboarding (5627). 6.00 Trial (38004). 7.30 Motor Sports (20578). 8.30 Boxing (5482). 9.30 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (58449). 10.00 Truck Racing (58501). 11.00 Motor Sports (4555). 12.00 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (58501). 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
7.30 Crossroads (333578). 7.30 Neighbours (501578). 7.55 EastEnders (54537). 8.30 The Bill (530428). 9.00 The Bill (538443). 9.30 The House of Eliott (233443). 10.30 Angels (538443). 11.00 Dallas (57558). 11.35 Neighbours (585287). 12.45 EastEnders (10551). 1.00 Juliet Bravo (47772). 2.00 Dallas (57723). 2.55 The Bill (437387). 3.25 The Bill (587004). 3.55 EastEnders (335207). 4.30 Angels (523085). 5.00 AJ

Closeures Great and Small (38880). 6.00 Dynasty (564808). 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: May to December (563500). 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: I Ain't Hell Hot, Mum (75757). 8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Yes, Minister (520240). 8.50 Family Ties (54276). 9.05 Verhoeven (522244). 11.30 The Bill (57700). 12.00 The Bill (57723). 12.30 Backup (125509). 1.25 Film: Cameron's Cold (585). 1.55 Film: Cameron's Cold (585). 2.00 Shopping (233644).

LIVING
6.00 Tidy and Clean (585757). 6.20 Philbot the Frog (2553004). 6.30 Johnson and Friends (543682). 6.45 Tidy Tidy (775537). 6.50 Police Dot Shorts (177053). 7.00 Practical Parenting (508172). 7.05 Professor Bubble (504513). 7.30 Calou (587348). 7.35 Bug Alert (503822). 7.55 Practical Parenting (585757). 8.30 Tidy Tidy (720959). 8.35 Tidy and Clean (585757). 8.50 Practical Parenting (570808). 9.00 Diet Show (708578). 9.30 The Roseanne Show (370808). 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (55351). 10.50 Heavy Petting (525757). 11.00 Brookes (507023). 12.00 Animal Rescue (538208). 12.40 Rescue 911 (540772). 1.00 Special Babies (237757). 1.40 Beyond Belief (7343882). 2.30 Law (338827). 3.30 Living Room (722288). 4.00 Michael Cole (42521). 4.50 Polaris (575453). 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (753578). 6.55 The Jerry Springer Show (55351). 7.05 Rescue 911 (433717). 7.35 Animal Rescue (534337). 8.00 Mural Call (738208). 9.00 Film: The Secretary (1994) (738759). 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (342508). 12.00 Close.

TNT
9.00 Muthy on the Bounty (1982) (585758). 12.45 The Outfit (1973) (375221). 2.55 A Very Private Affair (1982) (585778). 4.00 Barbara Stanwyck: Fire and Desire (733945). 5.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Closeouts (333578). 7.30 Diamonds (585). 8.00 Roseanne (578). 8.30 Newsradio (105). 9.00 Cybil (53004). 9.30 Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 5.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 6.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 7.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 8.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 9.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 10.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 11.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 12.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 1.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 2.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.00 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 3.30 Pres: Vice Pres: Big Night Out (5775). 4.00

but *Mersey Blues* has something new: a real sense of the fragility of our institutions, a feeling that we are all skating on

Channel 5

CHIEF OF BUREAU

5.00 S News and Sport (7) 7804917, 7.00 Widew
 (r) (S) (T) (B) 69582620, 7.50 Minskivai (S) 6954565
 7.53 Winkvay (S) 6827933, 8.00 Havak
 (r) (S) (B) 6954428, 9.30 Dapledudon Farm (r)
 (B) 6957293, 9.00 Animal House (r) 6957637, 9.52
 Russell Grant's Postcard (A) 6988462, 9.30 The Op
 Wintry Show (L) 6422269, 10.20 Spontaneous Beat (S)
 (R) 6926307, 11.10 Lazee (S) (S) 6930443, 12.00 5
 at Noon (S) (T) (B) 69551, 12.30 Family Affairs (S)
 (B) 6952240, 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T)

3.30 USA Crossed Lightning (Michael Schulz 97)
TV-14, Disappointing "biographical comedy" starring Richard Pryor as Wendell Scott, the first black stock car racer. A neatly supporting cast includes Dean Cain and Pam Grier, the "backpacker" star recently ravaged by Quentin Tarantino's *Jackie Brown* (953308).

5.30 Sunset Beach (S) (7) (9684795).

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S) (p13820).

8.30 Family Affairs. Yassin buys Josh a nippie ring. S what you're missing? (S) (T) (p04742).

7.00 5 News, including First on Five. Kirsti Young rumbles off with the headlines (S) (p23827).


7.30 Champions of the Wild. The "wild" is a bit of a

00.30 Family Confidential. A 14-year-old boy prepares his GCSEs while looking after the 10-month-old baby. The mother is a former homeless girl taken in by the boy's mother. (8251882).

00.40 The Pepsi Chart (S) (8272375).

a drastically conventional little soapie. Judith Light plays a woman on the brink of leaving her husband of 23 years, who opts to stay and look after him when he suffers a stroke. However, then she falls in love with another man. (S) (7) (R2210609).

20 The Jack Docherty Show (S) (8/5/05) **12.00**
Live and Dangerous (S) (8/5/05) **12.40** Live and
Dangerous (continued) (S) (7/30/05) **4.40** Rhinoceros
and Cell Block H (R) (S) (3/26/05) **4.50** 100 Per Cent
(8/5/05) **13.47**, To Barn.



PICK OF THE DAY

"A SHINE FOR CELLISTS"
 "Henry & Jackey," opening in the West End next Friday, and Mosonick, 12.2 pm, % found to more comparison with the Australian film, "Shine," as a result. (Note: have remembered that the film, % is, far superior film to the

NOELL
institut
turne o
voluntar
107-year

5.30 Sex and Shopping Looks at fashion scenes in popular media and asks why men tend then to acquiesce at it, which sounds a bit an opportunity for Channel 5 to show some pornographic lesbian scenes (S) (S30724)

7.20 The Jack Docherty Show (S) (B57605B) **12.00** Live end Dangerous (S) (B58536S) **12.40** Live and Dangerous (S) (B58536S) **4.40** Phosphate Call Block 1 (S) (B58536S) **5.30** 100 Per Cent (B58534Z) To Blank.

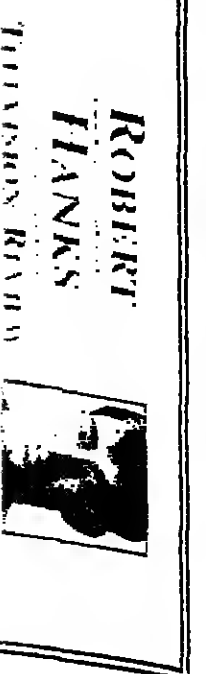
TELEVISION CLUNK: BY GERARD GILHEEN

PICK OF THE DAY

"A SHINE FOR CELISTAS"

"Henry's lack of...appealing to the...
Wood end new film and..."

صباحنا من الامل



ROBERT FLANNERY
THE INDEPENDENT

BBC1
BBC2
ITV Carlton
Channel 4
Channel 5

14TH JANUARY 1999

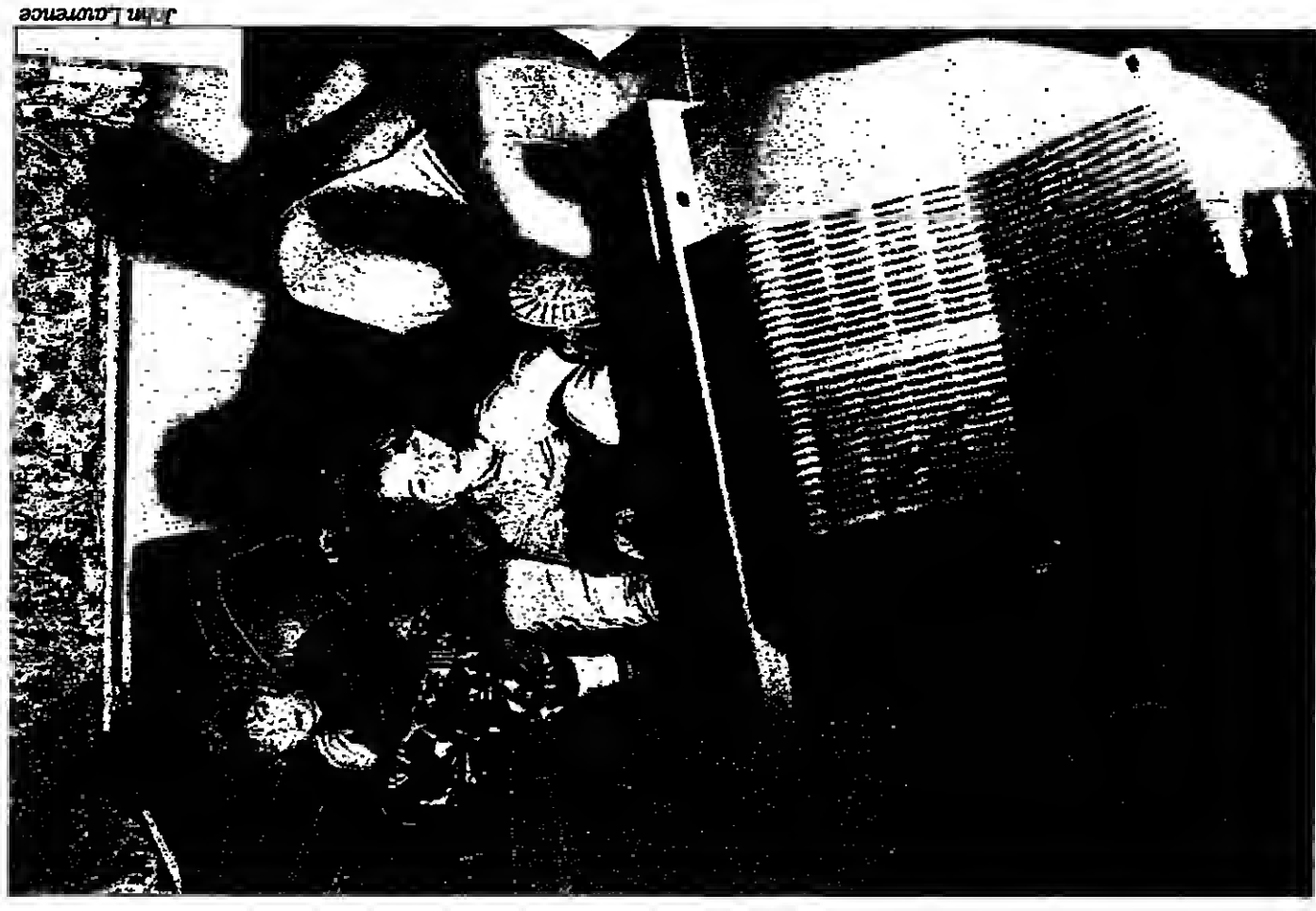
EDUCATION

www.independent.co.uk

2 Will there be a place for university lecturers when teaching goes online?

4 Behind the scenes with the academics attempting to benchmark degrees

10 Why one woman gave up teaching modern languages to children



Telly tubbies

How schools and parents can help children fight the flab Page 8

16/EDUCATION COURSES, EASTER REVISION

EASTER COURSES
AT
Hertford College, OXFORD
A-LEVEL and GCSE
Cherwell Tutors has established Easter Courses, intensive tuition in a demanding yet stimulating and friendly environment.
Tel: 01865 242670
Fax: 01865 791761

EXAM REVISION
A-LEVEL REVISION
GCSE REVISION
Tel: 01865 331151/1724 (ns)
Fax: 01865 331151/1724 (ns)

FACULTY OF ARTS

Lectureship in European Studies

You will have expertise in some area of European history since the Enlightenment, combined with an interest in the issues of unity, diversity and identity in contemporary Europe. Expertise in a modern European language, preferably German, is essential.

Your primary responsibility will be to take the lead in planning a new distance teaching course focusing on the issues of unity, diversity and identity in Europe which will be at the heart of an interdisciplinary European Studies degree at honours level. You will be based in the History Department where you will be expected to make some contribution to ongoing history and interdisciplinary courses, and to be actively involved in the maintenance of the History Department's RAE 5 rating.

Based in Milton Keynes, this post is available from 1 April 1999. Appointment will be made on the Lecturer Grade A salary scale £16,655 - £27,815 per annum on the Lecturer Grade B salary scale £22,726 - £29,048 per annum, according to academic attainment and experience.

Access details for disabled applicants may be obtained from Margaret Marchant on Milton Keynes (01908) 652466.

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

Lecturer in Art History

A full-time appointment is available for a period of twelve months to contribute to the research strength of the Department of Art History in the European Renaissance period and to assist in the presentation duties of courses teams on two courses: Art, Society and Religion in Spain, Florence and Padua 1280-1400 and Art and its Histories. You should possess a good first degree, a postgraduate qualification in art history or significant research publications and research interests within the European Renaissance period.

Based in Milton Keynes, this post is available from 1 April 1999. Appointment will be made on the Lecturer Grade A salary scale £16,655 - £27,815 (pro rata) or on the Lecturer Grade B salary scale £22,726 - £29,048 (pro rata), according to academic attainment and experience.

Access details for disabled applicants may be obtained from Cathy Playle on Milton Keynes (01908) 652479.

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

Lecturer in Philosophy

You will have a broad-based area of competence, sufficient for undergraduate teaching in both standard history of philosophy and twentieth century philosophy of the Anglo-American school. The area of specialisation is open. You will be required to contribute to the production and maintenance of courses within the Philosophy Department and, more broadly, within the Faculty of Arts; you will also be expected to contribute to the maintenance of the Philosophy Department's research rating. This permanent post, based in Milton Keynes, is available from February 1999.

Appointment will be made on the Lecturer Grade A salary scale £16,655 - £27,815 per annum on the Lecturer Grade B salary scale £22,726 - £29,048 per annum, according to academic attainment and experience.

Please contact Milton Keynes on Milton Keynes (01908) 652032 for access details for disabled applicants.

Closing date for applications: 15 January 1999.

For the above posts the further particulars and application forms are available from Mrs Jet Under, Faculty of Arts, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA. Telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 653370 (this is a 24 hour answering service), e-mail: arts-recruitment@open.ac.uk

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

<http://www.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/p/julin>

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION
The School is for boys and girls from two and a half to thirteen years of age. A scholarship is offered for entry to the school in September 1999.

Candidates must have been born between 1st September 1980 and 31st August 1991. The Scholarship Examination will be held on Tuesday 9th March 1999. For further information and an application form please contact Mr Christopher Secretary, Devonshire House School, 10000 Rye, East Sussex TN31 2JL. Tel: 0171-435 1815.

TEACHERS FOR PARIS

Language School in Paris seeks full-time English Teachers. Fluent French and University Education are essential. Teaching experience required.

Send CV and photo to:
LE COMPTOIR DES LANGUES,
63 Rue Laboulaye
75008 Paris
France
FAX: 0171 293 2505

skills & employability for Graduates

C V C P
The voice of UK universities
Higher Education Conferences

Monday 18 January 1999 - Woburn House Meeting & Conference Centre, London WC1
Skills & Employability is a key strand of the DfEE's agenda to promote quality and employability. This conference will follow the forthcoming launch of a joint report by C V C P and the DfEE entitled Skills Development in Higher Education. The report will provide the impetus to discuss the contribution of the skills and employability agenda to the development of a competitive economy and the implications for education providers.

Speakers Include:

Rt Hon Andrew Smith MP
Minister for Employment, Welfare to Work & Equal Opportunities, DfEE

Richard Brown,
Director, The Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE)

Pat Raderecht,
Chief Executive, The Higher Education Careers Service Unit (CSU)

Arlene Spiller,
Group Personnel and Training Director, Granada Foods Ltd

Professor Leslie Wagner,
Vice-Chancellor, Leeds Metropolitan University

Trevor Fellowes
Higher Education Quality & Employability Division, DfEE

Diana Warwick,
Chief Executive, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals

Chaired by Robin Lustig,
Broadcaster

CONFERENCE FEES

Supported Rate
£140.00 + VAT Total (£164.50)
Voluntary Organisations

Reduced Rate
£195.00 + VAT Total (£229.13)
Universities, Colleges, Local Authorities

Full Rate
£240.00 + VAT Total (£282.00)
Commercial Companies, National Government Bodies, Statutory Bodies

Sponsored by

THE INDEPENDENT

For more information please contact:
Ngai Stewart Associates
11th Floor, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3GL
Tel: 020 7494 4000 Fax: 020 7494 4001
Email: ngai@ngai.co.uk

GET PAID FOR READING BOOKS

It's true! You can earn up to £500 a week as a Freelance Proofreader and Copy Editor. No experience needed. Unique home-study course reveals all you need to know. For a FREE special report and details of how to claim your FREE £1000 bonus, contact: **0800-542-9868** (quote ref: 119)

THE INDEPENDENT

To advertise in this section please call **Amanda Robledo** on **0171 293 2061** or **Elaine Hughes** on **0171 293 2545**.

MASTERCLASS

Managing the office and the job. The School of Management. We offer the following Masterclass programmes in distance learning media:
• MSc Construction Management and Economics
• MSc Project Management
• MSc Occupational Safety & Health
We can provide a full range of personal/technical support, local reference and advice for your study programme; such support is considered on an individual basis. For further details, please contact Dr Alan T. Holden, Academic Manager of Distance Learning Unit, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1SD. Tel: 01243 831122 Fax: 01243 831123 Email: A.T.Holden@chichester.ac.uk Providing Higher Education for over 100 years.

Cramming in the quadrangles

Tutorial colleges offer courses to prepare students for both A-level and GCSE exams. By Emma Haughton

AMONG THE CHERRYBLOSSOMING streets of the city, a small group of colleges are preparing for the Easter holidays. The colleges are offering courses to prepare students for both A-level and GCSE exams. The courses are run by Emma Haughton.

Mr Gordon is not exaggerating. The brochure description of the course structure looks exhausting - lectures, group seminars, essay-writing classes, a review of past examination papers and mock exams. Reading through the daily schedule for Cherwell's young crammers, who concentrate on one A-level or two GCSEs during the course of a week, is even more alarming. Working in groups of six or seven students each morning at 9am with an hour's trial examination, and then work right through the day till 6.45pm. Even after dinner, they are expected to get their heads down and prepare yet more work for the following day.

Unlike other tutorial colleges, Oxford Easter Term colleges, which used to be a place where students could relax and enjoy the college life, are now a place where students are expected to work hard. The colleges are offering courses to prepare students for both A-level and GCSE exams. The courses are run by Emma Haughton.

Mr Gordon is not exaggerating. The brochure description of the course structure looks exhausting - lectures, group seminars, essay-writing classes, a review of past examination papers and mock exams. Reading through the daily schedule for Cherwell's young crammers, who concentrate on one A-level or two GCSEs during the course of a week, is even more alarming. Working in groups of six or seven students each morning at 9am with an hour's trial examination, and then work right through the day till 6.45pm. Even after dinner, they are expected to get their heads down and prepare yet more work for the following day.

Mr Gordon is not exaggerating. The brochure description of the course structure looks exhausting - lectures, group seminars, essay-writing classes, a review of past examination papers and mock exams. Reading through the daily schedule for Cherwell's young crammers, who concentrate on one A-level or two GCSEs during the course of a week, is even more alarming. Working in groups of six or seven students each morning at 9am with an hour's trial examination, and then work right through the day till 6.45pm. Even after dinner, they are expected to get their heads down and prepare yet more work for the following day.

Mr Gordon is not exaggerating. The brochure description of the course structure looks exhausting - lectures, group seminars, essay-writing classes, a review of past examination papers and mock exams. Reading through the daily schedule for Cherwell's young crammers, who concentrate on one A-level or two GCSEs during the course of a week, is even more alarming. Working in groups of six or seven students each morning at 9am with an hour's trial examination, and then work right through the day till 6.45pm. Even after dinner, they are expected to get their heads down and prepare yet more work for the following day.

EDUCATION: COURSES

The City of York Council, in partnership with The Independent, North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council and the National Railway Museum are proud to announce the

2nd City of York Annual Education Lecture
"Professionalism, Pedagogy and Leadership in Our Schools - Raising Educational Standards"
by Anthea Millett, Chief Executive, Teacher Training Agency at the National Railway Museum, York

on Thursday 11 February 1999 from 6.45pm to 10.00pm
Price £45.83 (inc VAT)

The lecture will be followed by a buffet and an opportunity to look round the exhibits. For a booking form please contact Sara Thorn, Educational Services, City of York Council, PO Box 404, 10-12 George Hudson Street, YORK YO1 6ZG. Telephone 01904 554205 Facsimile 01904 554206 email sara.thorn@york.gov.uk



CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

THE INDEPENDENT

Learn French fast
Intensive French Classes - Starting now

For a free brochure call
0171 723 7471

Alliance Française de Londres | Dorset Square, London NW1 6PU
E-mail: info@alliancefrancaise-londres.org.uk

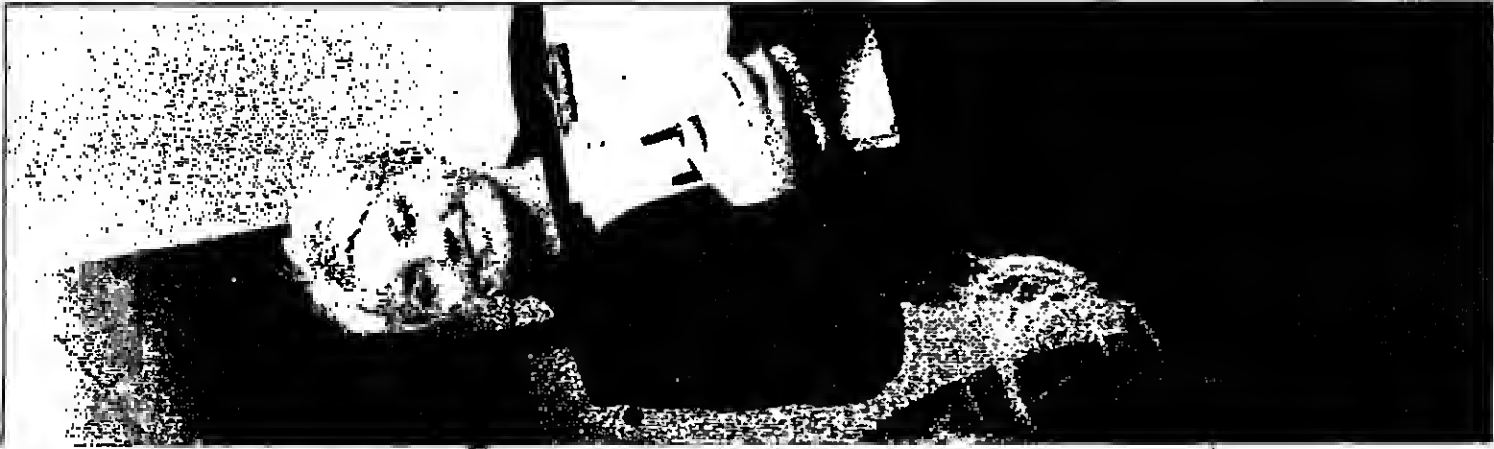
GCSE
Choose from the following courses:
• MFL 1: A German course module covering the 4 main components: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Includes the study of German culture and society.
• MFL 2: A French course module covering the 4 main components: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Includes the study of French culture and society.
• MFL 3: A Spanish course module covering the 4 main components: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Includes the study of Spanish culture and society.
• MFL 4: A Latin course module covering the 4 main components: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Includes the study of Latin culture and society.

MICROSOFT TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR THE BEST IT JOBS
Qualifications Recognised World-Wide
• MUSE - MCS - MCS - Internet Web Design
• NT Server/Workstation - Enterprise
• TCP/IP - Internet - IS - Exchange Server
• VB6.0 - HTML - Flash Animation - PhotoShop
• Exam Prep - Full/Part Time - Days/Weekends
0171 404 3636
Computer Skills Centre, Covent Garden - London
office@skillscentre.co.uk

AN INTERACTIVE WEBSITE TO TEACH HISTORY
Rick Heppin, reader in History at the University of York, has designed a website to aid the teaching of an important introductory level course in US history. At first the website simply included reading lists, bibliography, essay questions and so on. It also tried to orient the small group discussion that runs alongside Halpin's weekly lectures around primary documents posted on the Web. This year, the historians received a grant to improve the website and

make it interactive. Now students can ask questions, comment on lectures, and receive answers. There are Web-based assignments and the students are being shown how to use the Web to research their essays. The website now contains visual sources, including copies of original documents, which students can see on the screen. A section of a course, for example, is accompanied by the original illustrations from Herriot Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

there



Hallem University Guzelian

STUDENT SURGERIES VIA TELEVISION

One of the best ways to train medical students is by bedside teaching - having a patient to prod, who is showing classic symptoms of a disease. But it can be done only with small numbers of students and it depends on finding suitable patients. So surgeons at University College, London, asked technologists to help them project bedside teaching on to a screen and so reach a wider audience.

With a grant from the Higher Education Funding Council, they were able to set up a system for teaching surgery at six university centres around the country: Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle and UCL. Twice a week, a surgical demonstration was televised at one of these centres and seen at the other five. Students could hear and see, and ask questions. The microphone and the camera were passed to whoever wanted to speak.

"The set-up was really interactive," says Mike Hobbs, a retired professor of surgery who used to work at Middlesex Hospital. "But we discovered after a year that surgeons weren't turning up. They were intimidated by the TV camera and by the thought that they might make fools of themselves in front of their peers at other institutions." The surgeons overcame this by appointing students as spokesmen for the group, to avoid the spotlight falling on any one student for asking a daft question or getting an answer wrong. The exercise became highly successful.

"The set-up was really interactive," says Mike Hobbs, a retired professor of surgery who used to work at Middlesex Hospital. "But we discovered after a year that surgeons weren't turning up. They were intimidated by the TV camera and by the thought that they might make fools of themselves in front of their peers at other institutions." The surgeons overcame this by appointing students as spokesmen for the group, to avoid the spotlight falling on any one student for asking a daft question or getting an answer wrong. The exercise became highly successful.

"The set-up was really interactive," says Mike Hobbs, a retired professor of surgery who used to work at Middlesex Hospital. "But we discovered after a year that surgeons weren't turning up. They were intimidated by the TV camera and by the thought that they might make fools of themselves in front of their peers at other institutions." The surgeons overcame this by appointing students as spokesmen for the group, to avoid the spotlight falling on any one student for asking a daft question or getting an answer wrong. The exercise became highly successful.

VIEW FROM HERE

Benefactor relights the non-fiction award flame

A CHEERING story for the New Year and, at least, for two more years after that. In this space last June I mourned the passing of the NCR Prize for non-fiction and laid out a prospectus for a replacement. I mentioned the literary agent, Giles Gordon, and the publicity expert, David Irving, as the team that ran initially with the idea that became the NCR, stressing how keen they were for the non-fiction torch to be relit.



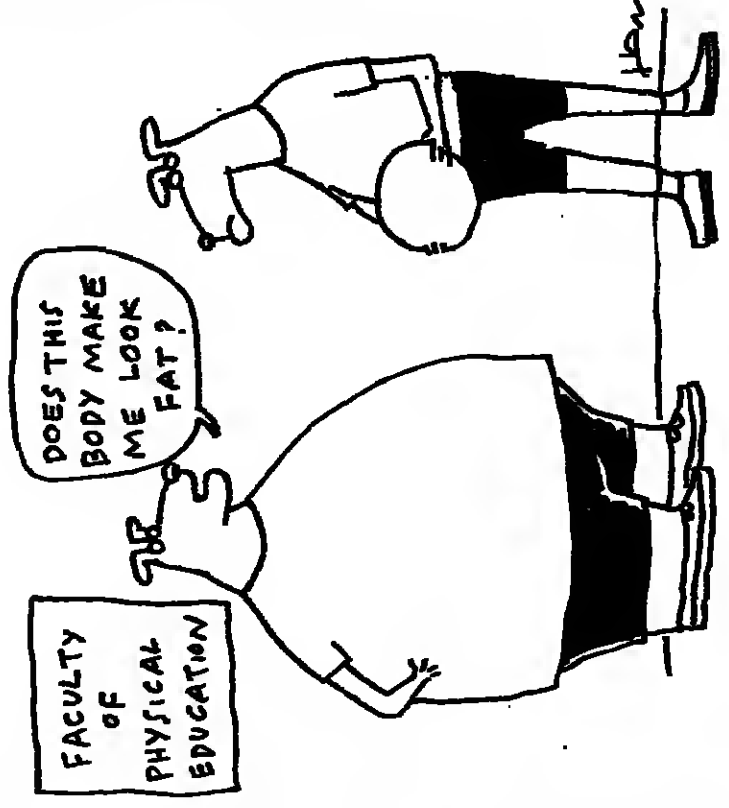
PETER HENNESSY

'The purpose of the prize is to commend scholarship, original thinking and proper writing - clear, lucid, understandable prose'

also related author, and of prestige. Jim Naughtie, the morning voice of the thudding classes on Radio 4's *Today* programme, will chair the first panel of judges.

It is quite terrific news all round, not least for British academics through the competition will not be confined to the UK - books published in English by writers of any nationality will be eligible, and quite right too. But by Dotti

HAM



صوتنا من الداخل

The making of a history graduate

A controversial attempt to benchmark university subjects seems to be bearing fruit in history says Anthony Fletcher
Thinking is governed by a deeply held view about how history trains the mind

The Quality Assurance Agency assesses subject benchmarking as a key element in the new model for assessing quality and standards. Yet the experience of history is beginning to suggest that benchmarking may be going to be useful, indeed that to many teaching the subject, the process is welcome.

The History Group has been discussing benchmarking since April. It is a representative group in terms of old and new universities, and its members are from a variety of disciplines. The group is not a formal body, but its members are all academics who are involved in the teaching of history.

It is crucial a scheme emerges which is intellectually convincing, coherent and acceptable

Universities, new universities and colleges, of UK regions and of specialists within the discipline. The group has 16 members in all.

Written responses received from the profession to the draft statement are generally favourable. When around 60 historians from across the UK met the group just before Christmas there was lively discussion of many aspects of the statement, all of it supportive. Today the group meets John Randall, chief executive of the QAA, to discuss the statement of the final statement.

How is it that we may have come to the point where the first place, it has never entered our minds that our task might involve establishing a national curriculum in history, or that we



Students need to understand their subject as a rounded whole, not as a series of separate, isolated study their degree subject or subjects, and that transference of skills and knowledge is a matter of legitimate national interest.

We have not taken on board key skills, believing that these should have been mastered before arriving at university. Our thinking is governed by a deeply held view about how history trains the mind. Curriculum building is a vast body of knowledge that constitutes the subject, and using knowledge to develop the qualities of mind mentioned earlier. Thus we believe that the curriculum acquisition of, and ability to apply, transferable skills and the development of students as competent historians proceed hand in hand.

Subject benchmarking is the first stage of a scheme that attempts some assessment of and judgement about standards. This is a far more complex matter than teaching Quality Assurance. Many of the members of the History Group will not be returning to the QAA's template for the history discipline. We will engage vigorously in debate with the agency about how the new model can best be implemented. We have difficulties with what the QAA envisages next, the scheme known as programme specification. We accept of course, and state bluntly that departmental standards, setting out through comprehensive documentation aims, objectives, assessment methods and weighting, assessment criteria for assessment and degree classification. It is our experience that most departments do this already and that there is already much experimentation in developing new in higher education. Assessment of and judgement about standards. This is a far more complex matter than teaching Quality Assurance.

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday, 14 January 1999

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Wells Professorship of Mathematics

The election of a successor to the late Professor Wells is now open to all holders of a first degree in Mathematics or other suitable degree as may be arranged.

The professor will succeed Sir Donald, FRS. The holder will be expected to deliver a series of lectures on the history of mathematics, and to be available for consultation with students and staff.

Applications should be sent to the Secretary of the Faculty of Mathematics, University of Oxford, 1 St. John's College, Oxford OX1 2JD. The closing date for applications is 15 March 1999. The successful candidate will be elected by the Faculty of Mathematics.

THE HALL HAMPSHIRE BURSAR

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar, which becomes vacant on 1st January, 2000. The appointment will be for a period of three years, renewable at the discretion of the Governors. The successful candidate will be responsible for the financial management of the school, and will be expected to work closely with the Headmaster and the Governors.

The post is a leading London preparatory school, with 410 boys aged 5-13. Full details of the school and the post can be obtained from the Bursar, Mr R. L. Orchard, The Hall School, 23 Grosvenor Road, London W1S 3JL. Telephone: 0171-722 1700. Fax: 0171-483 0181.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 1st February 1999.

EAGLE EYES REQUIRED

Would you like to practice as a freelance proofreader or editor, earning an excellent income working from home? Then mark the errors in this advertisement and post it to Eagle Eyes, c/o The Editor, 23 Grosvenor Road, London W1S 3JL. Telephone: 0171-722 1700. Fax: 0171-483 0181.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 1st February 1999.

13/APPOINTMENTS

RESEARCH, UNIVERSITIES, PUBLIC, SCHOOLS TEFL

Transforming

Jubilee Primary School, Filly Avenue, London, N16 6NR
Tel: 081 866 5446 Fax: 081 866 2353 School Roll: 415 Group: 3
Headteacher: Jacqueline Britton - St. Albans

Deputy Head

Appointment from summer term 1999

The Governors are seeking to appoint a Deputy Head who will work in close partnership with the Headteacher. We would like you to be able to lead the school, and to be prepared to work with the Headteacher for the right person.

The ideal candidate will have:

- A record of exemplary classroom practice with high standards of pupil achievement
- Skills, enthusiasm and energy to promote developments and initiatives throughout the school
- Taken a leading role in curriculum and school policy development
- Proven management and organisational skills
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills
- A commitment to the school's vision, "Inventors in People" status

You are very welcome to visit the school. Application forms are available from the School Administrative Office at the above address.

Please quote ref: ED432713.

Closing date: April 19, 1999

One of the core values of Transforming is an unwavering commitment to the principle of equality in terms of how we deliver the best services to our customers and the people who can make the process a reality.

SCHOOL OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

COMPUTER-AIDED SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

An experienced specialist in information technology is required, initially for a fixed period of 24 months, to work on a major European R&D project. The challenging project is concerned with the application of IT within the Large Scale Engineering construction industry.

You should have a good first degree in either Civil Engineering or an appropriate Computer related subject together with complementary education, training and/or experience in building to the project an appropriate level of knowledge, skill and experience in construction and information technologies. These are likely to include information modelling, information exchange, process integration and C++ programming. You must be strongly motivated, able to work without close supervision, and be willing to travel. There may be an opportunity to register for a higher degree.

Salary: Research III (£27,515 - £34,464 p.a.) according to qualifications and relevant experience.

Informal enquiries about the post may be made to Dr. Michael Watson (m.watson@ce.ox.ac.uk) on 0113 235 2314.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained by fax: 0113 235 2302, the Civil Engineering Research Institute, Fax: 0113 235 2343 (addressed to Sally Mortimer, School of Civil Engineering, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT), or email: a.mortimer@ce.ox.ac.uk. Job ref: 064-110-004-023.

Closing date: 12 February 1999.

Midweek answerphone, tel: 0113 235 4353.

Towards Equal Opportunities

SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL AND OFFSHORE ENGINEERING

LECTURER IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (DYNAMICS, MECHANICS AND MANUFACTURING)

(FLEXIBLE TERM 36 MONTHS) REF: 1048/01

You will be required to teach on the School's portfolio of BSc (Eng), BEng (Mech), and MSc courses and to supervise and deliver professional activities.

You must possess a good income degree, or a related qualification, in mechanical engineering or a related discipline, and have at least 3 years' experience in an academic, industrial or research environment. A higher degree by research would be a definite advantage.

For further details, please contact: Dr. Robert Gordon, School of Mechanical and Offshore Engineering, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, AB9 8QY. Tel: 01224 263300. Fax: 01224 263300. Email: r.gordon@abdn.ac.uk

NOVA Teach in Japan

NOVA Teach in Japan is an additional 30 schools in 1998 as well as a large services continues to grow. With over 100 schools in Japan, we are seeking applications for teachers in English, Japanese, and other languages. We are seeking applications for teachers in English, Japanese, and other languages. We are seeking applications for teachers in English, Japanese, and other languages.

Initial positions are to teach English to classes of up to 40 students. Lessons focus on the development of communication skills, with an emphasis on spoken skills and creativity. Schools are equipped with all the facilities and resources needed for a successful teaching experience. Alongside Japanese, American, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian staff, a stimulating and creative international environment. Initial and on-going training, support and feedback are offered to all teachers, and there are excellent promotion and career development opportunities.

Contract is for one year with renewal opportunities. You will receive a competitive base salary and work in a first school location on a regular schedule. Accommodation, health insurance, flight and visa are all arranged.

Current vacancies are listed below. To apply, please forward your CV and cover letter to: NOVA Teach in Japan, c/o The British Council, 11 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1BJ. Tel: 020 7462 0400. Fax: 020 7462 0401. Email: nova@britain.co.uk

Two Part-Time (0.7) Research Assistants/Studentships in Psychology

You will be expected to pursue a PhD project in one of the main areas of research within the Department of Psychology. The successful candidate will be required to undertake research in the area of Psychology.

In addition to pursuing the research for a higher degree, you will be expected to assist with the teaching of Psychology. You will be expected to have a good first degree in Psychology, and to have completed a research project in the area of Psychology.

For application please send your CV and a short statement of interest to: Professor Stuart Miller, School of Psychology, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT. Tel: 0113 235 2302. Fax: 0113 235 2343. Email: s.miller@leeds.ac.uk

LONDON GUILDHALL

TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Application form and further details available from the Head Teacher, Calthorpe School, Calthorpe, Leamington Spa, CV18 2JL. Tel: 0121 773 4637. Closing date: 5 February 1999.

CALTHORPE SCHOOL

TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Application form and further details available from the Head Teacher, Calthorpe School, Calthorpe, Leamington Spa, CV18 2JL. Tel: 0121 773 4637. Closing date: 5 February 1999.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Department of Plant Sciences

Research Position

BBSRC-funded, postdoctoral position available for 3 years to study the effects of abiotic and biotic stress on plant physiology and resistance to virus diseases. Experience in plant transformation and molecular biology is essential. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and deliver a research programme in the area of plant physiology and resistance to virus diseases. Salary range £15,000 - £22,000 per annum.

Send applications, description of research experience, CV and names of three referees by 11th February 1999 to: Dr. J. Caird, Department of Plant Sciences, Cambridge University, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EA, UK.

The University is an equal opportunities employer.

ROBERT GORDON

UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Application form and further details available from the Head Teacher, Calthorpe School, Calthorpe, Leamington Spa, CV18 2JL. Tel: 0121 773 4637. Closing date: 5 February 1999.

TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Application form and further details available from the Head Teacher, Calthorpe School, Calthorpe, Leamington Spa, CV18 2JL. Tel: 0121 773 4637. Closing date: 5 February 1999.

12/APPOINTMENTS
RESEARCH, UNIVERSITIES

REGIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Assistant Director (Learning Support & Technology Unit)

(5 year post based in Newcastle upon Tyne)
Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Director (Learning Support & Technology Unit) in the University's North Regional Centre in Newcastle upon Tyne. This post arises from the merger of staff of Academic Computing Services and a new Technology Research and Implementation Unit in Newcastle upon Tyne to form a new unit to act as a centre of excellence nationally in teaching and learning.
The Assistant Director will promote the use of new technology in supporting learning by Associate Lecturers (workshops) and students, plan and take part in staff development activities, evaluate technologies being used, undertake research and secure the transfer of good practice between regions and departments in the University.
The appointment will be at an appropriate point on the Lecturer B scale £22,760 - £29,048 p.a.
Closing date for applications: 2 February 1999
Interviews taking place week commencing 1 March 1999
Application forms, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from the Staff Support Team, Student Services Planning Office, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA. Telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 858251 or (01908) 655062 (24 hour Recruitment Line).

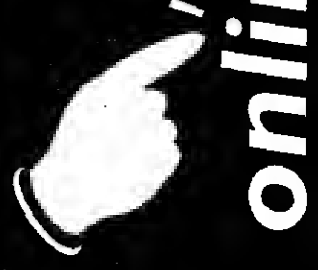


Disbanded applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Milton Keynes answerphone).
Equal Opportunity is University Policy.
<http://www2.open.ac.uk/jasonm/amp/pa.htm>

EMBASSY OF

THE STATE OF KUWAIT
AVIATION MEDICINE

A specialist is required by the Kuwait Armed Forces to fill the post of a consultant in aviation medicine. Required qualifications and experience should be as follows:
Qualifications: Must be an M.B.B.S. with Dip. in Av. Medicine and also should have Ph.D.
Experience: Should have minimum 10 years' experience as a flight surgeon in a well reputed civil or military organisation.
Age: Must be below 50 years.
Salary: Negotiable.
Applicants are requested to send a full CV, including the names of two work-based referees, to: Embassy Of The State Of Kuwait, Military Affairs Office, Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LX
Telephone: 0171 761 2800/2811
Fax: 0171 761 2810/2820



www.independent.co.uk
THE INDEPENDENT

TEL: 0171 293 2222

FACULTY OF COMPUTING SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (2/3 Posts)
Information Systems
£14,148 - £29,086

The Department offers a rich and successful research environment which encompasses Systems Development, Computer Science and Multimedia and postgraduate degrees in Computing and Information Technology.
You will contribute to information systems research, teaching and where appropriate, consultancy. It is important that you are able to integrate into our close knit research and teaching teams. You are likely to possess or to be completing a research degree, preferably at PhD level and have a record of publications relevant to IS thinking and research.



For an informal discussion contact Ray Farmer on 01533 431100 or tel +44 116 257 7471.
Application forms and further details are available from The Personnel Department, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel +44 116 250 6423.
(24 hour answerphone). Please quote Ref: 1087.
Closing date: 29 January 1999.



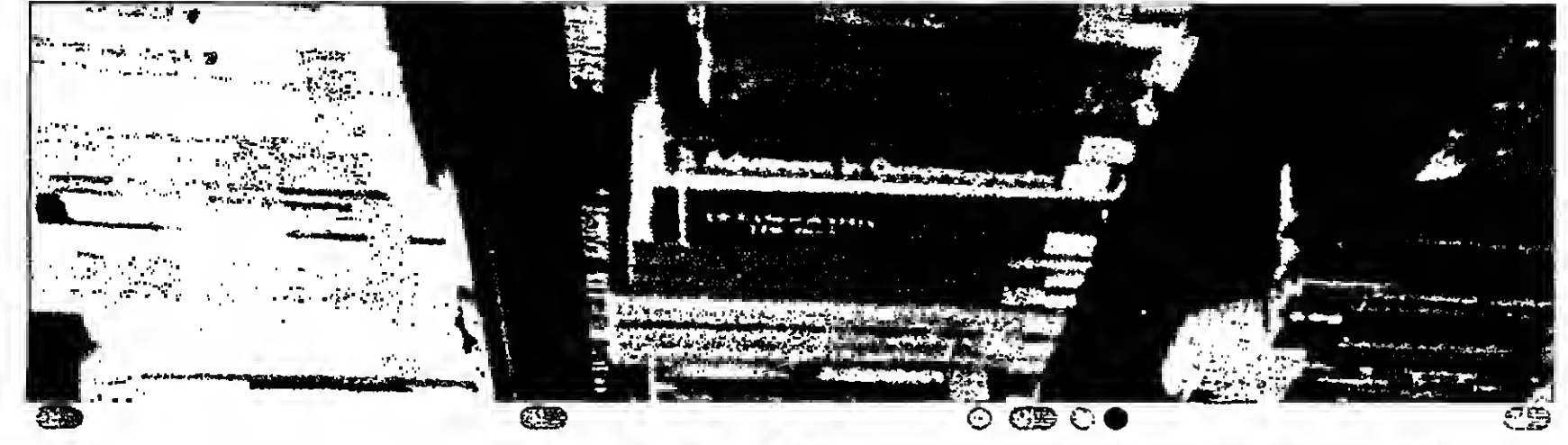
University of Cambridge
Department of Engineering
University Lecturer/University Assistant
Lecturer in Information Engineering

Applications are invited for a University Lecturer/University Assistant in Information Engineering, a post which will be based in the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge. The successful candidate will have or be expected to develop a record of world class research commensurate with the Department's international standing and 5 research ratings. Teaching responsibilities will include contributing to undergraduate courses, supervising final year undergraduates and graduate students, and assisting with the MPhil course in Computer Speech and Language Processing.
The desirable salary scale for University Lecturers is £20,107 - £31,010 per annum and for University Assistant Lecturers £18,565 - £21,515 per annum. Appointment will be from 1 October 1999 for either three or five years in the first instance.
Further particulars and an application form can be obtained from the Secretary of the Faculty Board of Engineering, Department of Engineering, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1PZ, tel: 01223 335616, fax: 01223 763664. Email: jobeng@cam.ac.uk. To whom completed application forms should be sent so as to reach the relevant department by 11 February 1999.
The University follows an equal opportunities policy.

DEVELOPMENT
FUNDRAISING MANAGER

The University of Stirling wishes to appoint an enthusiastic and hard-working graduate, with a commitment to the higher education sector, to the new post of Development Fundraising Manager.
The successful applicant, who will report to the Director of Public Relations, will be responsible for the development of the University's fundraising function within the University. The candidate will be an enthusiastic and hard-working graduate with the ability to seek and apply creative solutions to a range of problems. Evidence of first class oral and written communication skills are required, along with the ability to work with a team and to work under pressure. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of the University's fundraising function within the University. The candidate will be an enthusiastic and hard-working graduate with a commitment to the higher education sector, to the new post of Development Fundraising Manager.
Further particulars are available from the Personnel Office, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA. Tel: 01786 460288; Fax: 01786 460155 or email: personnel@stirling.ac.uk. Closing date: 28 January 1999.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

University of Stirling



compartment John Lawrence

constructively to this, knowing that it is of crucial importance that a scheme emerges which is intellectually convincing, coherent and acceptable to the sector as a whole. The funding committee proposed that external examination report directly to it and its self-censoring ordinance on discussion with them preclude judgements about individual performance. Academic review should concentrate on a department's ability to deliver on standards. This means relating the benchmarking framework to its own learning outcomes and the local assessment methods that test these. There is a long way to go. But working with the QAA has been stimulating and worthwhile. The assurance of standards, rather than simply checking on educational provision, may well be achievable.

Anthony Fletcher is a professor of history at the Essex University and chair of the History Benchmarking Group

Principals and princes put themselves in the hot seat

WORD OF MOUTH
JOHN IZBICKI



Edward Wintson and friend

In need of a chair? The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) got off to a slightly shaky start this millennium year. Ever since the resignation of Mike Fitzgerald, the colourful vice-chancellor of Thames Valley University, following a damning report on its progress from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Dr Fitzgerald was also vice-chairman of the CVCP at the time of his departure, and might well have been in line for the chair. A new and equally good vice-chairman was easily found in the shape of Roderick Proud, Provost at London Guildhall University, and former Professor of Modern History at Birkbeck College, London University.

Both were nominated for the unenviable post, and one or other should have been elected chairman for 1998-2000 without much fuss this spring. Yet, suddenly, both decided to withdraw from the race. Why? Good question. One explanation was that the CVCP is to "review its structure in the light of the devolution processes under way in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland". No, honest. It's true. They have even set up a special working party of academics, sub-committees and working parties to work out such a structure. It is to be chaired by Dr Kenneth Edwards, Vice-chancellor of Loughborough University, and I can only wish him luck. In light of all this to-ing and fro-ing, a postponement of the chairmanship election is to be sought following the CVCP's main committee meeting in March.

Taylor-made
Meanwhile, back at Thames Valley University, Bill Taylor has settled in nicely as a caretaker V-C to put the university back on a firm footing, following the publication of that dreadful QAA report. If anyone can do it, Sir William can. He it was, as I'm sure you will all recall, who performed such a miracle for Huddersfield University after its own Vice-chancellor (Professor Kenneth Durrant) was asked to pack his bags two or three years ago. In fact, Sir William is

rapidly becoming the country's higher education troubleshooter extraordinary. Not bad for a chap who has retired and is in his 80th year. Oh, and here's an afterthought to ponder: who assures the quality of the Quality Assurance Agency?

The Prince of Wales's women

There is a remarkable story told in Nottingham circles of how the Prince of Wales supported her at a local pub while one of his paramours was left twiddling her dainty thumbs in the back seat of his car. Before anyone thinks I am suffering from Sun-stroke, let me assure you that this Prince of Wales was not Charles, but Edward, and the year was not the present, but 1927. The story is recounted in the University of Nottingham's fine newsletter, notes that Edward owned Grove Farm, later the university's sports field, for six years, and had, it is said, a number of trysts in that part of the world, including one with Freda Dudley Ward, a courtesan of Charles Brinkin, a Nottinghamian. That particular liaison lasted 10 years - well before his abdication from the throne to marry Mrs Simpson.

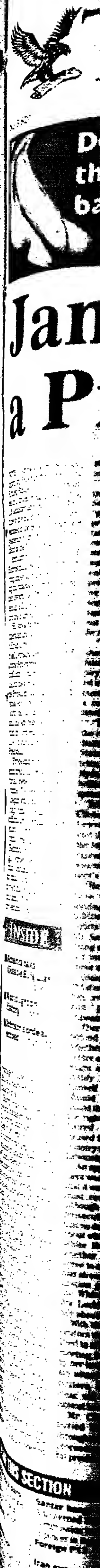
According to Stephen Zaleski, editor of the *London Times*, a local Nottingham magazine, local residents often saw the prince "travelling to and from the farm in a company of various ladies". And Herbert Robinson, a Leiston resident, recalls Edward's visit to the White Hart.

ODDLY ENOUGH
NICK FEAR

beer. Students will learn the difference between lagers, pils and ales, understand why ale and beer are different, and learn why the course aimed at improving the practical knowledge. "The Demon of the Ages when hops were added to their favourite brews." One module will cover the rare pub cuisine of "jarpe flanking" - a bizarre game in which drinkers are dressed as scarecrows and moke soaked in beer.

Colombians play safer. Rowers at an annual fair had to step aside when a giant inflated contraption snaked through downtown Cali, Colombia's third-largest city. The Guinness Book of Records has recognised the condom, which stretched over half a mile and weighed about 1,550kg, as the largest ever made. A project organiser said: "The idea is to show people that AIDS is a huge problem, much bigger than this condom." The condom took two months to build at a cost of £3,000 and was paid for by Santiago de Cali University and a condom manufacturer.

سكان الامل



6/EDUCATION

A-Z OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Cheltenham and Gloucester



Age: 11

Only a step, then? Yes, though the roads go a long way back, it was born of a merger between the College of St Paul and St Mary la Church of England teacher-training colleges created in 1847 and the Higher Education College of Arts and Technology.

Address: Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2AA. Tel: 01242 851111. Fax: 01242 851112. Email: enquiries@cheltenham.ac.uk

Teaching: Scored 80 out of 100 in the 1996-97 survey. The college is for students of science, technology, health and environment studies. It's a big college of higher education with more than 6,000 full and part-time students - and is highly thought of. The college has the power to award its own degrees and research degrees (like PhDs) and is planning to become a university in the millennium. Church of England, it's important. A site in Gloucester is expected to be added.

Added value: Bright and welcoming students' union.

Easy to get into? You need two A-level passes, averaging 10 to 15 points in each, and a C or D. But the college takes mature students without A-levels.

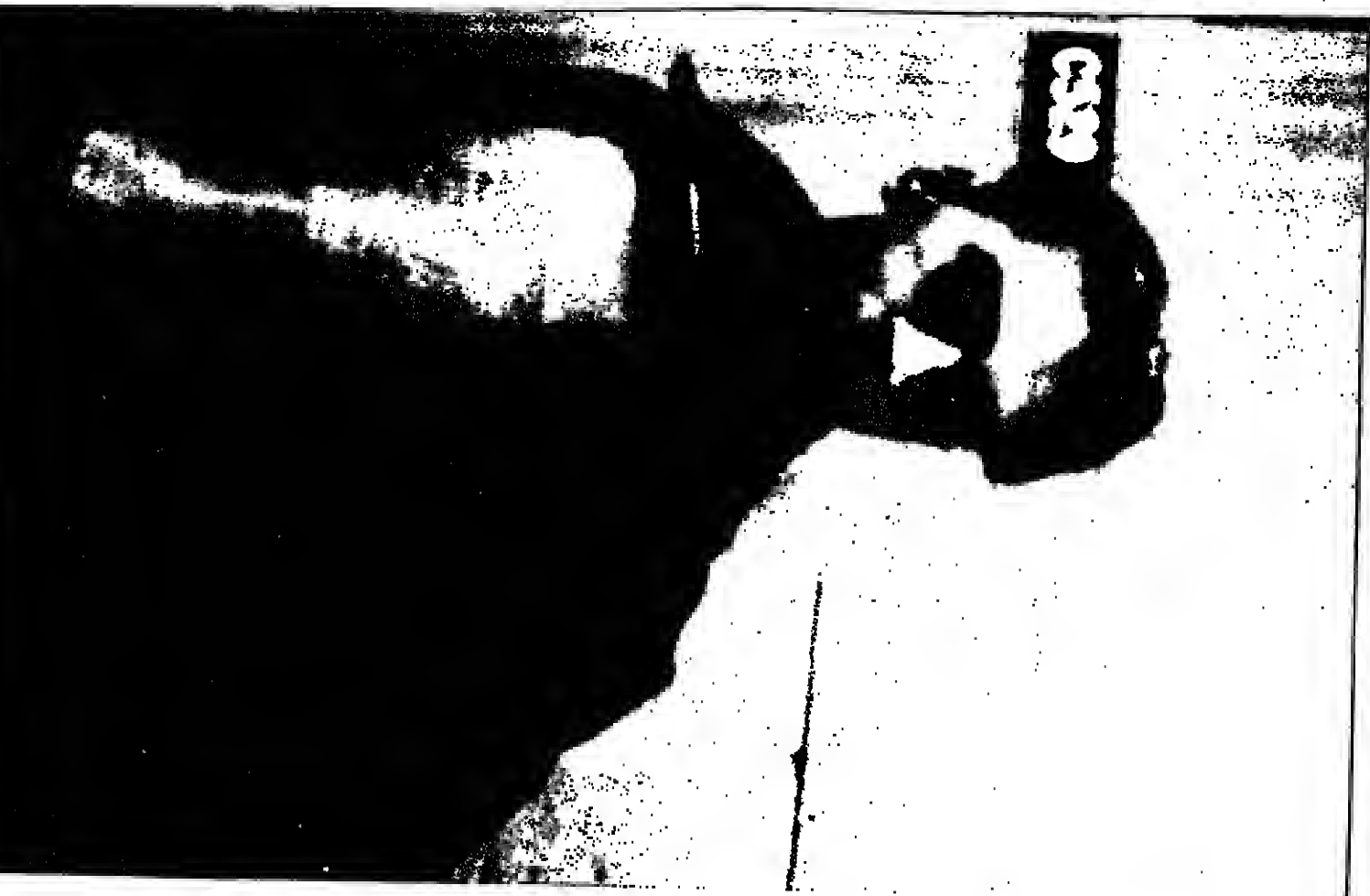
Next week: Chester. LUCY HODGGS

High standards in

Newham schools face some of the toughest social problems in the country, but Ofsted is delighted with the progress its council has made. By Ben Russell

Raising school standards in the deprived inner city is education's pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, the goal sought by schools, education experts and above all politicians. Last week the Office for Standards in Education declared that it could be done. Ofsted, which has provoked anger for its damning criticism of urban local authorities in Manchester, Hackney and Croydon, visited Newham, a council in London, even though seven of its schools are closed on falling and another 10 are deemed to have serious weaknesses. Inspectors praise the Labour-run authority for its unwillingness to tolerate failure and for its "dynamic and imaginative professional leadership". They say: "It serves the country well in demonstrating, in contrast to a very small number of authorities inspected so far, that it is possible to successfully challenge the assumption that poverty and ethnic diversity must necessarily lead to failure at school."

The East End borough is one of Britain's most deprived areas. The figures tell it all. Nearly half of all children have free school meals. One in five comes from a single-parent household. Nearly two-thirds come from ethnic minorities and half speak English as their second language. The area, well to the east of London's Isle of Dogs, is one of the poorest in the country.



'We don't tolerate truancy, or petty violence from parents. We take parents to court or we ban them from schools'

of run-down shopping streets, and lines of Victorian houses and tower blocks. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rented houses and often little or no English when they enter school. The borough's schools may be well below the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastest improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in last year - from 23.8 per cent in 1996 to 34.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards in English and maths has leapt by more than 38 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which closely follow the model now being adopted by the Government for

reforming education authorities across Britain. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rented houses and often little or no English when they enter school. The borough's schools may be well below the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastest improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in last year - from 23.8 per cent in 1996 to 34.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards in English and maths has leapt by more than 38 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which closely follow the model now being adopted by the Government for

reforming education authorities across Britain. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rented houses and often little or no English when they enter school. The borough's schools may be well below the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastest improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in last year - from 23.8 per cent in 1996 to 34.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards in English and maths has leapt by more than 38 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which closely follow the model now being adopted by the Government for

reforming education authorities across Britain. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rented houses and often little or no English when they enter school. The borough's schools may be well below the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastest improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in last year - from 23.8 per cent in 1996 to 34.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards in English and maths has leapt by more than 38 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which closely follow the model now being adopted by the Government for

reforming education authorities across Britain. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rented houses and often little or no English when they enter school. The borough's schools may be well below the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastest improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in last year - from 23.8 per cent in 1996 to 34.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards in English and maths has leapt by more than 38 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which closely follow the model now being adopted by the Government for

reforming education authorities across Britain. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rented houses and often little or no English when they enter school. The borough's schools may be well below the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastest improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in last year - from 23.8 per cent in 1996 to 34.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards in English and maths has leapt by more than 38 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which closely follow the model now being adopted by the Government for

reforming education authorities across Britain. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rented houses and often little or no English when they enter school. The borough's schools may be well below the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastest improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in last year - from 23.8 per cent in 1996 to 34.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards in English and maths has leapt by more than 38 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which closely follow the model now being adopted by the Government for

reforming education authorities across Britain. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rented houses and often little or no English when they enter school. The borough's schools may be well below the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastest improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in last year - from 23.8 per cent in 1996 to 34.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards in English and maths has leapt by more than 38 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which closely follow the model now being adopted by the Government for

11/APPOINTMENTS

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Research Fellow/Research Assistant in Studies of Science

(Full-time but part-time will be considered - for a minimum of 3 days a week)
Applied does not involve from researchers with an interest in applying the core patterns of various sciences to a project entitled "Women in Science: Consequences of Career Progress". We are particularly interested in applications from those with experience of interview methodology and/or analysis of qualitative data.
You must have a first degree or equivalent. Suitable qualifications might be from a range of backgrounds: we would welcome applications from those with PhDs in any area of social and educational research. You should also have some demonstration of research interest in science as an area of knowledge.
The post is full-time for 12 months, but part-time will be considered for a minimum of 3 days a week for 18 months. Salary will be on the Research Assistant scale, grade 6, £15,735 - £17,570 per annum (plus pension).
As an application form, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from Mrs Pat Cross on Millers Keyway (01908) 652916, e-mail: pat.cross@open.ac.uk. There is a 24-hour telephone service available on Millers Keyway (01908) 654127.
Closing date for applications: 2 February 1999

MILLENNIUM AWARDS SCHEME COORDINATOR

Applicants are invited to apply for a temporary (33 months) post in accordance with the following information. The post is full-time for 12 months, but part-time will be considered for a minimum of 3 days a week for 18 months. Salary will be on the Research Assistant scale, grade 6, £15,735 - £17,570 per annum (plus pension).
As an application form, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from Mrs Pat Cross on Millers Keyway (01908) 652916, e-mail: pat.cross@open.ac.uk. There is a 24-hour telephone service available on Millers Keyway (01908) 654127.
Closing date for applications: 2 February 1999

LECTURER IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited for a permanent lectureship in human geography based in the Faculty of Social Sciences. You will be joining a group that is committed to the widest possible diffusion of geographical ideas in an accessible and engaging manner. In particular, we are looking for someone who has a broad knowledge of environmental issues and an enthusiasm for communicating geographical ideas.
The Geography Department has an active research and teaching programme and an offer for a fully funded research fellowship in which to focus and develop ideas. It has a strong commitment to collaborative ways of working, and possesses a proven ability to recruit and retain staff. It is a friendly and supportive environment. You should be able to contribute to the research and teaching of the department and to the wider community.
Further details, application forms and access details for disabled applicants are available from Mrs Pat Cross on Millers Keyway (01908) 652916, e-mail: pat.cross@open.ac.uk. There is a 24-hour telephone service available on Millers Keyway (01908) 654127.
Closing date for applications: 2 February 1999

APPOINTMENTS DIARY

Monday IT, Science, Engineering
Tuesday Finance, Legal, Secretarial
Wednesday Public, General
Thursday Education, Graduate

APPOINTMENTS DIARY

Monday IT, Science, Engineering
Tuesday Finance, Legal, Secretarial
Wednesday Public, General
Thursday Education, Graduate

TEL: 0171 293 2222

FAX: 0171 293 2505

They don't walk to school, they don't play games and their favourite occupation is watching telly: the result is mass obesity, truly a growing problem. By Emma Haughton

Survival of the fattest

IT'S THAT time of year again. Having consumed many units of alcohol and several million calories above what is strictly necessary to keep body and soul together, we're all picking up the tab for seasonal over-indulgence. Chances are you're dishing of last year's list of excesses during this year's planning that crash diet and just off to re-visit gym membership.

Long may you good intentions last, but perhaps it's not just your own health you should be worried about. If your kids spent Christmas slumped on the sofa in front of the TV, gorging themselves on chocolate Santas and selection jacks, new bikes lying unused in the shed, they may well be more in need of a radical change of lifestyle than you are.

Because, according to a recent Gov-

We eat no more calories than we did two years ago; nutritionists say that inactivity not diet is the key to obesity

ernment survey, our children are a pretty unhealthy bunch. "The Health of Young People 1995-97", as the survey is called, is something of a milestone. Of the 20,000 it studied, no less than a third of those aged 10-14 were found to be overweight or obese. Today's youngsters are too lazy and gluttonous for their own good, it concludes, and present one of the greatest challenges to public health.

The survey results, however, come as no surprise to nutritionists and exercise experts, who are becoming increasingly concerned about young people's eating and exercise habits.

Obesity is a growing problem, says Dr Barbara Livingstone, lecturer in human nutrition at the University of Ulster. "Children's body composition is changing, and it does appear that children are getting fatter, with more fat in the expense of muscle tissue. And

there's no reason to suggest that that trend will reverse."

And, for once, it's not just parents who are to blame; schools, too, are failing to encourage children to adopt a more healthy lifestyle. Last October, many came under attack from the Government for the increasing proportion of junk food in their school meals. Around 3 million children have a school meal every day, and for a large proportion this is their main meal.

But too many are filling up on burgers, chips and cakes, says the Government, which has drawn up the first set of nutritional guidelines in 18 years, stressing the need to offer more variety and balance.

"School meals are a real minefield," says Livingstone. "Schools are in the business of making ends meet and tend to supply food that the children want to eat. Many do make an effort to encourage better eating habits and are working under enormous constraints, but nevertheless there is a lot more that they can do to encourage appropriate food choices."

However, with many pupils now able to go out to the shops at lunch time, returning school meals may have a limited effect. And, ironically, it seems that when it comes to weight gain what goes in may not be as crucial as the energy subsequently expended. Despite the national expanding waistline, we are actually eating no more calories now than we did two decades ago, nutritionists agree that inactivity, rather than diet, is the key element in obesity.

Take walking to school. In the mid-1970s, 72 per cent of children aged 10 walked to school; now just 50 per cent do. Teenagers are even lazier - another government report found that in the decade to 1995, 11- to 15-year-olds had reduced their number of walks by 33 per cent, double the fall for the population as a whole.

This finding is backed by research by Professor Neil Armstrong, who measured the activity of 1,000 children aged five to 16 by monitoring their heart rate. Although boys are generally more active than girls, he found, activity decreases through primary school for both sexes, falling dramatically when they go on to secondary level. "A lot of activities that were normal



WHAT CHILDREN SAY ABOUT PE

'I do like PE, the theory and practical, but I wish we did more and other stuff like martial arts. That would be really useful.' (Simon, 15)

'I hate games, I try and get out of it as often as I can.' (Tasha, 14)

'Football's the worst. It's outside and I get muddy. And it's always freezing too.' (Jonathan, 13)

'We have to wear short skirts and a matching top and PE. It's horrible if it's cold and you think all the boys are looking at you. Why can't we do music and dance instead? That would be cool.' (Holly, 15)

A lack of physical exercise, poor diets of junk food, and hours spent in front of the television are

research carried out at the Dunn Nutrition Centre, in Cambridge, in 1997 estimated that a child walking up to two miles a day to school would have used up about half a day's food intake over a week.

The same is also true for cycling, says Armstrong. Although more children own bicycles, fewer ride them, particularly girls, while one in three boys with bicycles can ride on the roads, only one in nine girls is allowed to do so.

However, while few schools would view how children arrive at school as being under their jurisdiction, what happens after they go through the gates is also under question. Physical education has dropped too far down the curriculum, says Armstrong.

"Physical education in schools has been squeezed more and more since the national curriculum, especially with the introduction of the literacy and numeracy hours. PE time is going down, there's a fall in the number of qualified PE teachers, and schools are selling off playing fields for development. There may be a recommended minimum of two hours PE a week, but that's only a recommendation - the amount of time children spend in physical education is totally up to the school."

But the problem is not just quantity, but quality, says Susan Ebb, the head of nutrition and health at the Dunn centre, which has a facility for researching childhood obesity.

Schools are focusing too much on team games, which are often not the best activities for inter-life, she feels. "Schools have got to get children going, encouraging them to be more active as children, but also setting up

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

■ A US study found a strong inverse relationship between television and being overweight. Children who watch a lot of television are more likely to be overweight. Encourage your children to watch less television.

■ Encourage your children to walk or cycle to school. If you are concerned about safety, look for your council to provide safe routes.

■ The key role model for children is Mum, says Professor Armstrong. Children with an active mother tend to be more active than average. Remember that physical activity is the best investment in young people's health for life.

combining to store up health problems for our children, now and in the future

John Lawrence

WHAT CAN SCHOOLS DO?

■ Take a hard look at your PE programme. Is it fostering a positive attitude to being active, or putting kids off physical activity for life? Are you focusing on all the most talented 3-4 per cent? Do you offer alternatives to team games, such as aerobics, aqua fit or more co-operative activities?

■ Encourage your children to walk or cycle to school. If you are concerned about safety, look for your council to provide safe routes.

■ The key role model for children is Mum, says Professor Armstrong. Children with an active mother tend to be more active than average. Remember that physical activity is the best investment in young people's health for life.

■ Encourage your children to walk or cycle to school. If you are concerned about safety, look for your council to provide safe routes.

9. HOME HELP Encyclopaedias and dictionaries

ENCYCLOPAEDIAS ARE the Texan of multimedia - big, acquisitive and ambitious, with each annual update bringing yet more information and glossy features. Immensely useful and endlessly fascinating, they nevertheless carry a constant danger of information overload. Kids need to learn the hi-and-run approach: identify exactly what they're after, then get in, get it, and get out.

Most encyclopaedias offer similar features. The basic information comes as text, but often diversifies into a bewildering array of photographs, diagrams, films, animations, sound clips, tables, and maps. An atlas and a dictionary are often thrown in for good measure. You'll usually find research software to help with essays and projects, and updates via the Internet.

Eye-witness Children's Encyclopaedia (Dorling Kindersley, age 7-11, £29.99) is a gentle and colorful introduction to the reference tool, covering nature, science, history, and geography in a kid-friendly way. It's a very child-friendly, there's a "Grab-a-Flag" section, for example, all guaranteed copy. The voice synthesizer reads back any piece of text, including your own notes. It is rather odd-sounding, but is useful for children who thrive for knowledge exceeds their reading level.

Slightly more sophisticated, but just as easy to use is The Kids Multimedia Encyclopaedia (GSN 6-13, £19.99). Its pleasing balance between clearly and thoroughly makes it an ideal homework tool. But best of all, the publishers seem really to have considered what interests children. There are articles on sports, fashion, and the pop group "The Notorious B.I.G.", as well as more "textbook" facts. For example, if you really want to give your children a good night's sleep, you'll need to know that the word "nocturnal" comes from the Latin word for night.

Encyclopaedia (Dorling Kindersley, 10+), £29.99, provides a rigorous depth of information. Science 2.0 covers maths, physics, chemistry and the social sciences, but also includes the "mystery explorer" that lets you magnify objects up to 30 million times. The "mystery explorer" is a particularly liked feature. "They make things way easier to understand."

Space and the Universe deals with all things cosmological, with a healthy dose of astrophysics thrown in. You can even try your hand at landing a moon shuttle, or building and launching your own rocket.

Nature 2.0 brings closer to home, with a wealth of information on animals, plants, fish and birds. A naturalist's guide to the difference between an elephant and a mammoth and a pangolin. What it comes to the big stuff, Encyclopaedia Britannica has long been the gold standard of reference books. The new CD-ROM version (all ages, £125), containing 45 million words and 3,000 articles, aims for the same in multimedia. It is certainly the most thorough and wide-ranging of the bunch and, once you are familiar with the rather confusing

